

# IMPACT REPORT 2023



## CONTENT

#### Impact report 2023 Regenagri C.i.C.

Foreword	03
About	04
2023 highlights	07
Standards development	08
The regenerative farming journey	09
Results	10
Case studies	18
illycaffè – Coffee	19
GreenPods – Almonds	20
J.Crew Group – Cotton	22
Farmer success stories	23
Vinod Bhende – Cotton	24
Shathi Sultani – Mango	25
Future plans	26
Finance	28
Our structure	

## FOREWORD

## Gaining momentum on the global journey towards regenerative farming for all

#### THE STORY SO FAR

Regenagri started its journey in 2019 with the mission to identify and fill the gap between environmental impact goals and an effective scalable framework with which to achieve them. By 2020 we were ready to start implementing our programme.

Four years on, in our first impact report, I'm proud to share details of our success so far. In a short time we've been able to create a complete framework consisting of robust standards, a user-centric data platform and assurance services.

Our focus has been on three priorities; scalability, contextualisation and data assurance. Our unique offering as a scalable standard with a contextualised approach allows us to work with an ever-growing number of farmers, companies and organisations around the world to achieve time-bound climate and livelihood goals set by industries and governments. Third-party auditing and certification by Control Union brings consistency and integrity to data collection, providing assurance to both our clients and their customers.

#### A YEAR OF SUSTAINABLE GROWTH

Broadly speaking, 2023 was a year of great success stories for Regenagri; from continued growth in the textiles sector, to our expansion into food supply chains. Our efforts to connect with organisations seeking solutions to support their climate strategies saw a huge increase in the area of land covered by regenagri standards and certification. We also worked hard to strengthen our standards and data assurance to support this influx of new partners.

Set against a backdrop of increasingly extreme weather affecting crops and livelihoods around the globe, the very real threat of climate change makes our work more urgent than ever. Today Regenagri's programme supports over 230,000 farms and 855 supply chain operators worldwide to become more climate resilient by reducing their carbon footprint while stabilising and increasing their income.

#### **EXPANSIVE GLOBAL UPTAKE**

I'm delighted to say that the expansive uptake of our programme means that regenagri is fast becoming the go-to global standard for regenerative agriculture. In 2023 alone the area of land under the regenagri programme increased threefold in comparison with 2022. This is thanks to so many international producers recognising the importance of regenerative agriculture and its benefits.

Our recent success is thanks to Regenagri's hard working and flexible team of experts. They work to fine tune our standards and systems, responding to the needs of the many ambitious farms, organisations and companies who have decided to join us on the journey to a more regenerative approach to production.

#### WHAT'S NEXT?

The programme's rapid growth means we've learnt a lot about the challenges facing specific regions as well as the different needs of our clients and their customers. This knowledge is critical for the success of our work in 2024 and beyond. Read more about our future plans on **p26**.

Over the following pages you can read about how our standards, services and certification work are evolving, along with success stories about coffee in Brazil, cotton in India, almonds in France and mangoes in Bangladesh.

We look forward to working with many more farmers, supply chain operators, brands and civil society organisations in the years to come.

For now, we hope you enjoy reading our very first impact report.





Regenagri is a global regenerative agriculture framework for securing the health of the land and the wealth of those who live on it.

It supports farms and organisations to transition to holistic farming systems that increase soil health, encourage biodiversity, reduce carbon footprint and enhance climate resilience.

We provide standards and digital tools to certify the impact and to assure the integrity of regenagri-certified products from farms to finished products.

We also provide farmers with routes to additional funds through carbon credit and impact incentives.

The regenagri programme is owned and managed by Regenagri C.i.C., a Community Interest Company registered in the United Kingdom.



and the

135 219

#### BRINGING RIGOUR TO THE REGENERATIVE RUSH

The regenerative agriculture movement continued to gain momentum during 2023, with growing public and media attention. This was accompanied by international producers' widespread recognition of its economic and environmental benefits. For Regenagri, this wave of interest translated into a fivefold increase in the number of farms and supply chain operators applying our standards, with an additional 640 supply chain companies coming on board.

We were delighted to offer our expert support, effective structure and rigorous standards to those companies who wanted to match their positive talk with powerful action. The Control Union group, an independent third party auditor, continued to add an extra layer of robustness to our standards by providing third-party objective and independent verifications to confirm our clients' outcomes.

#### THE GO-TO GLOBAL STANDARD

Regenagri is fast becoming the go-to global standard for regenerative agriculture. More than 230,000 farms use our standards. By April 2024 the total area of land under the regenagri programme was 1,462,838 hectares; a 36% increase on 2023 figures within just the first three months of 2024. See more in our results section. We achieved this by intensifying our efforts to promote the real impact our programme can have on companies' sustainability goals.

Our client Amiha, a sustainable farming company based in India, works with five smallholder groups that are regenagri certified. Their Director of Operations and Innovation in Sustainability, Hetal Shah, said: "The advantages of aligning ourselves with regenagri standards extend across economic gains, effective resource management, and improvements in soil quality. The collaborative efforts within the Regenagri framework have proven to be a catalyst for positive transformations in our operational footprint and the overall wellbeing of our community." "The advantages of aligning ourselves with regenagri standards extend across economic gains, effective resource management, and improvements in soil quality"

/ Hetal Shah,

Director of Operations and Innovation in Sustainability, Amiha

#### PLATFORM UPDATES

The Regenagri platform is our digital application where farms and supply chain operators can register data and measure their progress and impact over time. 2023 saw several major updates to the platform to align our system with the latest Greenhouse Gas Protocol (GGP). We also restructured it to improve scalability and introduced new functionalities for more granular and effective measurement of fertiliser and crop protection use and soil data, while expanding the animal welfare section.

Working closely with Control Union, and listening to the feedback from our users, we improved functionalities to assess water quality, biodiversity, fertiliser use and crop protection. Farmers have told us that long-winded, confusing processes discourage them from sharing data and, ultimately, achieving certification. By improving these processes we can reduce unnecessary auditing burden.

In addition, we further developed functionalities that allow for context-appropriate assessment for each farm's unique conditions. For example, some farms are naturally arid, others receive much more rain. This affects how much work farmers need to do to implement standards around irrigation and cover cropping best practice. The changes we have made to the platform now respond better to these differences, awarding more points for farms in arid conditions, and fewer for those in tropical areas.

#### FRUITFUL COLLABORATIONS

2023 was a year of working with others all around the world to make some serious ground in the area covered by regenagri-certified land.

Our certification scheme was chosen to be used in the delivery of the USDA Partnerships for Climate-Smart Commodities Grant. A project funded by the grant; ECOM-Climate-Smart Cotton through a Sustainable and Innovative Supply Chain Approach, promotes the adoption of sustainable and regenerative practices for cotton production by farmers in the USA. It provides technical and financial assistance, as well as traceability and data management strategies. The consortium supports cotton farms in the USA to go through the process to receive regenagri certification, among other standards. This is a huge step forward in Regenagri's global journey towards regenerative farming.

We also worked hard to expand the food sector's use of regenagri standards; from almonds and coffee to sugarcane and mangoes. The adoption of regenagri by coffee producers is a recent success story. By the end of 2023, 50,627 hectares of coffee farms in Brazil were regenagri-certified (compared with 22,812 hectares in 2022, a 120% increase on 2022 figures).

Part of this increase was thanks to our collaboration with illycaffè. We worked with them to support their coffee bean farmers in the Cerrado Mineiro area in Brazil to join the regenagri certification programme. illycaffè is the first company to achieve full supply chain certification<sup>1</sup>, from farms in Brazil, to their roasting and packing plants in Italy.

Read more on p19.

<sup>1</sup> Based upon work supported by the US Department of Agriculture, under agreement number NR233A750004G043.

### SOWING THE SEEDS OF REGENERATIVELY GROWN COTTON

Candiani Denim was the first clothing company to join our programme back in November 2021. Since then more and more clothing brands have chosen to work with regenagri standards and certifications. Brands include GUCCI, who received the 2023 Ellen MacArthur Foundation Award for Circular Economy for its denim project which uses regenagri-certified cotton. We're also proud to have J.Crew Group, ASOS, Diesel, FRAME, GAP, PVH, Anthropologie, G-Star and Stella McCartney on board, all of whom use regenagri-certified cotton in their products.

"We are excited by Regenagri's programme and are exploring ways to expand it to more farmers and more fabrics in the future."

**/ Doug Forster,** Chief Sourcing Officer at J.Crew Group

Read more about why and how clothing retailer J.Crew Group is working with Regenagri to improve the sustainability of its products as well as farmers' livelihoods on **p22**.

#### FROM BEAN PODS TO PODCASTS

The Regenagri podcast, established in 2020, continued to grow in popularity. We now produce six podcasts a year and have more than 30 episodes available. Through the podcast we explore the rapidly evolving regenerative agriculture movement, featuring independent guest speakers working across global food and textile supply chains.

We've had over 26,500 listens since its launch, with top performing episodes getting more than 1,300 plays. It's

streamed worldwide to more than 100 countries, with a core listenership base in the UK, USA, Australia, Canada, Germany, New Zealand and the Netherlands.

You can listen and subscribe by searching 'Regenagri' on any podcast streaming platform. Find out more on our website at regenagri.org/podcast.

#### CARBON CREDITS FOR CLIMATE RESILIENCE

In 2023 we introduced a new element to our standards to give structure and much-needed quality assurance to carbon credits projects. Our partner Cefetra, a supplier of agricultural raw materials for the feed, food and fuel industry, chose to adopt our Carbon Standard. They're using it for a project which supports their farm suppliers in South America to transition towards more climate-resilient practices. The project also aims to create additional financial returns for the farms through the generation of regenagri carbon credits.

Cetetra's project will see farms covering more than 50,000 hectares implementing regenerative practices including:

- reduced tilling
- cover cropping
- tree planting
- reduced synthetic fertiliser usage
- fuel switching/efficient fuel usage
- protecting native forest

These practices either help to reduce greenhouse gas emissions or sequester carbon into the soil. We expect to issue a first batch of regenagri credits in 2024.



## STANDARDS DEVELOPMENT

## Regenagri standards provide a consistent, scalable and inclusive framework to support our clients' climate goals.

Our partners use our standards to assess the implementation of regenerative farming and certify the integrity and impact of regenagri products throughout the supply chain. Our standards guarantee a robust, transparent and trustworthy validity of companies' regenerative farming claims.

Over the last four years we've developed the regenagri standards into a set of meaningful benchmarks. We put farmers' needs at the heart of all improvements, with the aim of creating lasting environmental and financial change for both farms and supply chain operators.

Our standards provide valuable criteria for.

- farms
- supply chain companies
- brands

#### They support:

- impact claims
- carbon insetting and offsetting
- data verifications

The management and development of our standards align with the International Social & Environmental Accreditation & Labelling's (ISEAL) codes and principles.

During 2023 we made some important updates to improve our standards across the board, as well as introducing our very first product-specific standard.

#### NEW COFFEE SUPPLY CHAIN STANDARD

In 2023 we introduced the regenagri Chain of Custody Certification Criteria for Coffee. This is great news for consumer-facing companies who want to both source regenagri-certified regeneratively grown products and promote traceability and positive impact with assured claims. Companies can apply this standard to every step in the coffee supply chain; from initial processing to the finished product.

We're proud of our partner illycaffè for becoming the first company to achieve full supply chain certification – from farm to roasting and packing – for its Arabica Selection Brazil coffee. Read more on **p19**.

The creation of this criteria is our first step towards creating a range of product-specific standards. We look forward to expanding the programme further into new areas as demand grows for regenagri-certified products.

#### THE REGENAGRI STANDARD CRITERIA

We reviewed the overarching standard structure that applies to all certified organisations, and those who use Regenagri's platform. The latest version, 3.1, includes an improved contextualised approach to assess:

- fertiliser use
- crop protection products
- water quality
- biodiversity

It also has a new section on labour and health and safety requirements. This update means fairer, context-relevant assessments for farms. It also supports the scalability of our standards, while providing granular data that allows farms to develop an improvement plan and monitor their progress.

#### PROCEDURES AND GUIDELINES

Finally, we updated our procedures and guidelines to make it easier both for certified farms to adopt the programme, and for the certification body to carry out audits. By simplifying processes and clarifying requirements, the process is now more efficient for everyone involved.

The new procedures include additional due diligence requirements for Regenagri, the auditing body and clients. These procedures help to assure that regenagri-certified products come from farms that have not deforested, as per programme eligibility criteria.

You can find more details about the regenagri standards setting criteria and procedures, together with our theory of change, monitoring evaluation and learning, assurance and risk management on our website: regenagri.org

## THE REGENERATIVE AGRICULTURE JOURNEY

The transition to regenerative agriculture is a journey. It requires commitment and a long-term vision. While there may be some quick-wins, long-lasting benefits from the implementation of regenerative systems can take some years to appear.

#### Regenerative agriculture is a way of farming that aims to:



improve soil health



reduce carbon footprint and use of resources



enhance diversity



improve the livelihood of farms and communities

The transition to regenerative agriculture also demands a shift in culture, working towards better collaboration between farms and supply chains.

Since its launch in 2019, Regenagri has had the opportunity to see first hand how strategies to transition to regenerative practices differ from region to region, and within different farming contexts. Each context presents a range of opportunities for positive impact, as well as various challenges.

The regenagri programme provides farms with a framework to develop a long-term transition plan. Together we look at strategies to enhance soil health and diversity and reduce emissions while safeguarding their business. We require farms and supply chains to sustain their regenerative approaches for the long term to create real and impactful change on both their local environment and income.

# RESULTS

Here we share the first in depth analysis of our data – looking at both programme uptake and impact – since Regenagri launched in 2020.



### **RESULTS** The results are grouped into two areas; uptake data and impact data.

#### **UPTAKE DATA**

This data looks at the uptake of the regenagri programme in terms of hectares of land covered, the number of farms that have adopted our standards, and the split across countries, regions, types of produce and conservation land. The data covers a period of four years, from the programme's beginning in 2020 to February 2024.

#### **IMPACT DATA**

This data highlights the impact our programme has had on carbon dioxide reduction, GHG emissions and water use reduction.

#### Units

In the results we use the following units:

- Soil carbon sequestration: tonnes of carbon per hectare (C / Ha), tonnes of carbon per tonnes of product
- GHG emissions: tonnes of CO2 equivalent
- 1 carbon unit: 1 tonne of CO2 equivalent (GHG reductions) or 1 tonne of soil carbon sequestered
- Conservation area: Hectare (Ha)
- Water: Litres/Ha

#### Crops

In this report we feature a sample of the large variety crops grown under the regenagri programme. We focus on the following crops as they are commonly cited by farms and supply chain operators and the initial reason why they join the programme:

- Cotton: The most common crop grown within our programme
- Coffee: The second more common crop grown
  within our programme
- Nuts
- Tree fruits
- Sugarcane
- Tea
- Soybean and grains: corn, wheat and others
- Spices, fruits and vegetables

### **UPTAKE RESULTS**



+2,003

our standards.

855



Supply chain companies are certified to the regenagri supply chain standards.

1,462,838 Ha



and 234,136 farms were under the regenagri programme as of April 2024.

A growing number of brands and retailers are adopting the regenagri programme, which in turn drives the increase in supply chain companies certifications.

Certification of supply chain companies is a prerequisite for the sale and claim of regenagri certified products.

Table 1: Size of land and numberof farms under the regenagriprogramme by countryand region.

COUNTRY	TOTAL SCOPE AREA/HA	NO OF FARMS
Côte d'Ivoire	256,915	20,374
Egypt	700	300
Nigeria	647	190
Tanzania	176,757	25,365
Total Africa	435,019	46,229
Bangladesh	187	500
India	368,002	180,742
Malaysia	2,763	500
Pakistan	3,685	593
Sri Lanka	2,003	1,501
Taiwan	109	1
Tajikistan	12,630	168
Total Asia	389,379	184,005
Australia	165,863	16
Total Australasia	165,863	16
France	246	3
Greece	2,429	25
Italy	190	1
Spain	4,648	27
United Kingdom	500	1
Total Europe	8,013	57
Turkey	47,378	955
Total Middle East	47,378	955
Mexico	15,164	88
USA	78,378	145
Total Central - North America	93,542	233
Brazil	320,723	2,041
Peru	2,925	600
Total South America	323,648	2,641
Total	1,462,842	234,136

### PRODUCTION DATA BY PRODUCT AND REGION

#### COTTON

79.7% of the total land under the regenagri programme is used for the production of cotton (and other grains in rotation, including maize, wheat, soybean, sorghum). This is equivalent to 1,166,605 Ha of land.

Table 2: Uptake of the regenagri programme<br/>for cotton production by region and country.Data on cotton production are expressed in<br/>metric tonnes of seed cotton.

COUNTRY	COTTON AREA (HA)	NO OF FARMS	COTTON PRODUCTION (HA)	AVERAGE YIELDS (MT/HA)
Côte d'Ivoire	98,046	20,374	75,495	
Egypt	700	300	539	
Nigeria	175,838	25,365	135,395	
Total Africa	274,584	46,039	211,430	0.77
India	359,784	170,294	647,611	
Pakistan	3,685	593	6,633	
Tajikistan	12,630	168	22,734	
Total Asia	376,099	171,055	676,978	1.80
Australia	165,683	16	422,492	
Total Australasia	165,683	16	422,492	2.55
Spain	4,648	27	17,709	
Total Europe	4,648	27	17,709	3.81
Turkey	35,933	954	136,545	
Total Middle East	35,933	954	136,545	3.80
Mexico	13,984	48	67,123	
USA	78,378	145	376,214	
Total Central - North America	92,362	193	443,338	4.80
Brazil	214,371	607	557,365	
Peru	2,925	600	7,605	
Total South America	217,296	1,207	564,970	2.60
Total	1,166,605	219,491	2,473,461	2.12

#### COFFEE

Coffee grows on 45,335 Ha of land under regenagri in Brazil, which is about three times the uptake in 2022. This is 14.1% of the total land under the programme in Brazil (320,723 Ha).

We also work with Kelani Valley Plantations PLC's in Sri Lanka, where an initial 59.8 hectares of the company's holdings is dedicated to growing coffee.

We are in the scoping phase with growers in Vietnam.

COUNTRY	COFFEE AREA (HA)	NO OF FARMS	COFFEE PRODUCTION (HA)	AVERAGE YIELDS (MT/HA)
Brazil	45,335	47	121,498	2.68
Total	45,335	47	121,498	2.68

**Table 3:** Uptake of the regenagri programme for coffee production by region and country.

REGION	LAND (HA)	NO OF FARMS	ANNUAL NUTS PRODUCTION (TONNES)	AVERAGE YIELD (TONNES / HA)
Asia (India)	2,018	11,807	363	0.18
Europe, Middle East and Africa	27,041	27,640	40,562	1.50
USA	1,227	7	3,681	3.00
Total	30,286	39,454	44,606	1.47

**Table 4:** Uptake of the regenagri programme for nuts production by region and country

COUNTRY	LAND (HA)	NUMBER OF FARMS
Africa	25,692	20,374
Asia	4,610	3,356
Europe (Italy, Spain)	595	2
Middle East (Turkey	419	89
South America (Brazil)	1,922	1
Total	33,238	23,822

**Table 5:** Uptake of the regenagri programme for tree fruits production by region and country

#### NUTS

TREE FRUITS

2.1% (30,286Ha) of total land in the regenagri programme is dedicated to nut production, either as part of diversified farming operations or as the leading business operation.

The difference in yields between the region indicates whether nut production is a key farming activity or a limited production added as part of a farming diversification approach.

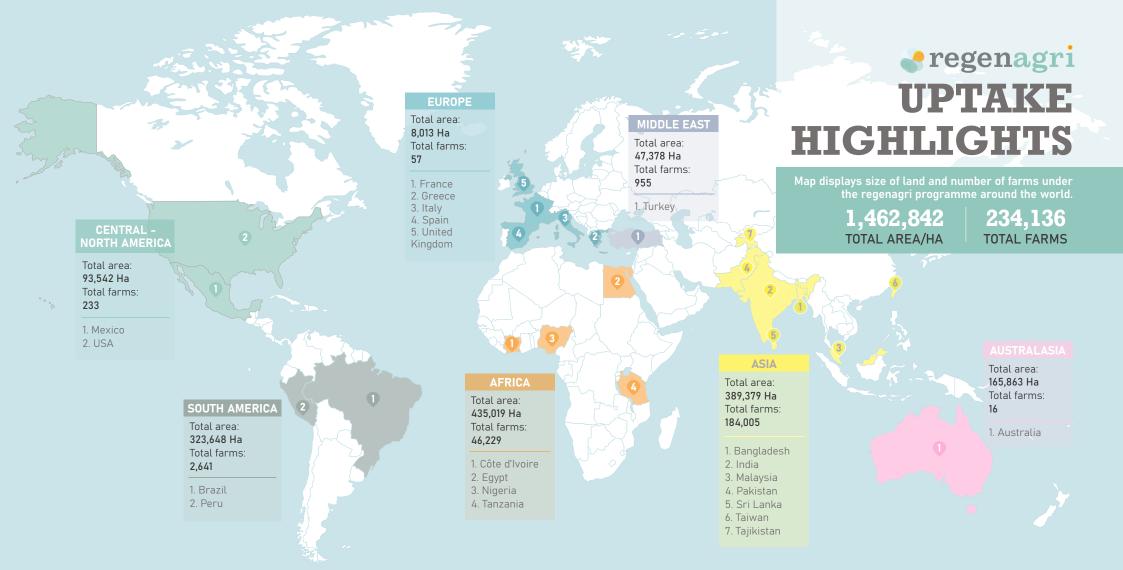
Globally, 42,484 Ha of land produce fruit trees. This includes

As with nuts, tree fruit production is either integrated in a diversified production system (typical for smallholders) or

mangoes, citrus, bananas and oil palm.

14	IMPACT REPORT 2023 regenagri	
----	------------------------------	--

as the key production activity.



#### TEA

In Sri Lanka regenagricertified tea farms cover an area of:

2,003 Ha

#### SPICES, FRUITS AND VEGETABLES

This production is usually integrated in a diversified farming system on farms that have adopted regenagri standards.

### 2,335 Ha

Total regenagri-certified farmed land producing spices, fruits and vegetables

**SOYBEAN AND GRAINS** (Corn, wheat and others) On regenagri-certified farms soy and grains are farmed in rotation with cotton. 1,140,206 Ha of land under regenagri grows grains and 830,537 grows soybean.



#### **CONSERVATION LAND**

Conservation and biodiversity are important elements of the regenagri criteria. The programme aims to drive an increase in the area of land dedicated to conservation.

**Globally, 125,287 Ha of land (8.6% of the total land under the regenagri programme) is dedicated to conservation.** On average there has been a 2% global annual increase in conservation area across land under the programme.

## **IMPACT RESULTS**

#### METHODOLOGY

Many variables play a role in regenerative agriculture systems, so the longer the period over which we measure change, the more reliable the data is, and the richer the benefits become. That's why our analysis considers projects that have been using regenagri standards for at least two years. Such projects exist in Brazil, Turkey and the USA.

For the purposes of the report, we focus on the impact data for both cotton and coffee, wherever the data is available. These two crops make up the majority of all products grown on land under the regenagri programme and so make for the most interesting segment of data for analysis.

The data we report shows the impact achieved during the period 2021 to February 2024.

The data used for this report have undergone a third-party audit and verification by the accredited certification body, Control Union.

#### **GHG** emissions

Reducing GHG emissions is one of the regenagri programme's key impact objectives. Sources of GHG emissions are numerous and how to reduce them depends on several different factors. These include:

- access to technology and innovation
- climate region
- crop type
- farm size: large farming operation or smallholder
- soil type

The GHG emissions have been calculated with the Cool Farm Tool methodology, which is integrated into the regenagri platform using an API.

We report the data on changes of GHG per year per hectare and per tonne of product.

Every tonne of CO2 Eq is equivalent to 1 carbon insetting unit for farms and companies using our carbon insetting standards.

#### Soil carbon sequestration

For the measurement of soil organic carbon and soil carbon sequestration, remote sensing measurements have been integrated with soil analysis results.

The regenagri programme requires periodical soil samples to be analysed by accredited laboratories at least every three years. However, most farms in the programme have their soil analysed annually.

Every tonne of carbon sequestered is equivalent to 1 carbon insetting unit for farms and companies using our carbon insetting standards.

For the remote sensing measurements we use SmartCloudFarming technology. SmartCloudFarming provides the farming sector with soil intelligence through machine learning geospatial measurements.

It addresses the costly and labour-intensive manual collection and analysis of Soil Organic Carbon (SOC) data, which is essential for reporting on regenerative agricultural and carbon farming projects.

More information on this technology can be found at smartcloudfarming.com

#### Water

Improving resource management, which includes reduction in water use and water pollution prevention, is part of the requirements of the regenagri criteria.

Actions to reduce water use and the related impact vary depending on conditions such as climate region and what is produced.



### COTTON

#### GHG emissions data

Globally, the reduction of GHG emissions from regenagri cotton farms is estimated to be 5,181,526 tonnes of CO2 Eg per year, which is equivalent to 2.09 tonnes of CO2 Eq per tonne of regenagri cotton produced.

The average annual reduction of GHG emissions in the USA is 1.1 tonnes of CO2Eq per Ha, which is equivalent to a GHG reduction of 0.23 tonnes of CO2Eq per tonnes of regenagricertified cotton. The calculated total GHG emissions reduction from regenagri-certified cotton in this region is 81,646 tonnes of CO2 Eq per year.

In Turkey the average annual reduction of GHG emissions is 13.17 tonnes of CO2Eg per Ha, equivalent to a GHG reduction of 3.46 tonnes of CO2Eg per tonnes of regenagri cotton. The total calculated reduction is 473.237 tonnes of CO2 Eq per year.



#### Soil carbon data

Over the course of this period, the measurements of the soil carbon stock for the projects in Brazil and the USA have reported an increase of 3.12t carbon / Ha / vear (annualised).

According to the land area under the programme and yields data, this increase in soil carbon stock translates into the total sequestration of 913,377 tonnes of carbon per year (913,377 carbon insetting units per year), equivalent to a reduction of 0.98 tonnes of carbon per tonne of cotton produced.

In Turkey, we measured an increase of soil carbon stock of 0.33 tonnes of carbon per Ha per year (annualised).

According to the land area under the programme and yield data, this increase brings a total sequestration of 11,858 tonnes of carbon per year or 0.09 tonnes of carbon per tonne of cotton produced.

In India, there has been an average annual soil carbon sequestration of 0.66 tonnes of carbon per Ha, equivalent to 1,19 tonnes of carbon per tonne of cotton produced.

From the above, the average soil carbon sequestration for regenagri cotton farms is 2.12 tonnes of carbon per Ha per year (2.12 carbon insetting units / Ha / year).

Considering the total land area growing cotton, the total annual soil carbon sequestration would be 2,476,502 tonnes of carbon

#### Water



In Turkey the reduction of water used by regenagri certified farms has been on average 2,410 litres per Ha per year or 9,182 litres per tonne of cotton.

In the USA and Brazil, the reduction of water used by regenagri certified farms has been on average 105,038 litres per Ha.

In India, the average reduction of water used by regenagri certified farms has been on average 550,000 Litres per Ha per year or 305,555 Litres per tonne of cotton.



### COFFEE



#### GHG emissions data

Average annual reduction of GHG emissions is 5.34 tonnes of CO2 Eq per Ha of land and reduction of 1.99 tonnes of CO2Eq per tonne of coffee (considergin GHG emissions reductions and biomass sequestration). The total average annual GHG emissions reduction associated with the certified coffee in Brazil is 242,089 tonnes of CO2 Eq (equivalent to 242,089 carbon insetting units).



#### Water reduction

The average reduction in water use by certified farms in Brazil was 95.410 Litres/Ha. equivalent to 43,368 Litres per tonne of coffee.



## CASE STUDIES

More than 230,000 farms and 855 supply chain companies use our standards all around the world. Here are just a few examples of how we're supporting them to transition to more regenerative farming practices.

### CASE STUDY ILLYCAFFÈ ACHIEVES FULL SUPPLY CHAIN CERTIFICATION

In 2023 illycaffè became the first company to achieve full supply chain certification from Regenagri; from its coffee bean farms in Brazil's Cerrado Mineiro, to its roasting and packing plants in Italy. With the support of regenagri's robust standards and certification programme, illycaffè works to mitigate the effects of climate change throughout its Arabica Selection Brazil coffee supply chain, starting with cultivation.

Each step in illycaffè's regenagri-certified coffee supply chain complies with our rigorous standards, including the implementation of a due diligence system.

The company has been working closely with farmers in the Cerrado Mineiro region for over thirty years.

illycaffè's responsible supply chain management aims to create value for all involved. This has a positive impact on both the quality of its coffee and the farming communities with which it works.

Its sustainable supply chain is based on a system of direct relationships with its suppliers. illycaffè selects and works directly with Arabica coffee bean producers, offering training in environmentally friendly, sustainable quality production. It rewards producers for quality coffee beans, paying them higher than market prices, stimulating continuous improvement and making production sustainable.

Using the regenerative farming model shifts the focus from the coffee bean plant to the soil in which it grows, offering the best natural solutions to nourish, strengthen, and make it fertile and resilient to external threats.

### CASE STUDY ORGANIC ALMOND ORCHARD BECOMES FIRST REGENAGRI-CERTIFIED FARMIN FRANCE

In 2020, GreenPods started work to transform a conventional 150-hectare corn farm into a regenerative orchard.

> "Working with a robust third party certification programme like Regenagri backs up our regenerative claims, which is important for our clients and stakeholders,"

/ Boris Spassky, Co-founder of GreenPods, the company behind La Granja's success. GreenPods is a regenerative agriculture farm developer working to respond to the growing demand for fully traceable plant-based products.

Its mission is to transform conventional agricultural operations into regenerative orchards. They promote a more resilient food system and restore:

soil health

biodiversity

- water cycles
- natural capital

La Granja is France's largest organic almond orchard to achieve the French low-carbon standard; Label Bas Carbone. They expect to capture an estimated 4575 tonnes of carbon dioxide over the next 20 years.

Its story began in 2020 during the COVID lockdown. GreenPods' founders came across a 150-hectare farm for sale in Toulouse. It had been producing conventional corn for 30 years, which was exported to Spain's pork industry. This French corn was fed to pigs in fattening stations. The pigs were then sent to slaughterhouses, packed and shipped back to France, ending up on French supermarket shelves. This struck the team as a wasteful and out-dated model.

The company secured the farm through a 25-year lease and converted it to organic farmland. Founders Martin and Boris started rotating soy, buckwheat, sunflower, spelt, winter oats, winter wheat, and sorghum. On the rest of the farm, they planted 64 hectares of organic almonds.

Planting perennial crops on degraded land:

- captures carbon dioxide both in the woody mass of the trees and in the soil
- allows better water retention
- increases biomass production per hectare
- reduces erosion

Farming organically at La Granja also avoids indirect emissions from the production of synthetic inputs.

GreenPods now plans to replicate its model on the other side of the Pyrenees, in Northern Spain.

#### "Tree crops like almonds are a perfect response to the dual challenge we face: feeding the planet while mitigating climate change."

/ Boris Spassky, Co-founder of GreenPods, the company behind La Granja's success.

"In an economic world constrained by our planetary boundaries, I'm convinced that the unicorns of tomorrow will be regenerative companies. These companies embody the notion of 'finite resources' in their very DNA, turning it into an opportunity to create value; for the company, for its stakeholders and for society as a whole," says Boris.

<sup>2</sup> privately-owned startup businesses worth more than \$1 billion.



#### CASE STUDY

### CHANGING THE NORM: REGENERATIVE COTTON FARMING IN FARMING IN INDIA AND THE USA

In 2021, J.Crew Group began investing in and piloting regenerative agriculture programmes with growers and strategic partners around the world. They chose Regengri to support their ambitious goals to reduce the environmental impact of the cotton used in their garments.



"Regenerative agriculture is a priority for us at J.Crew Group, and sourcing fibers that may actively mitigate the effects of climate change is especially exciting."

J.Crew Group chose regenagri standards thanks to our use of third-party verification, reassuring their customers of their reduced impact on both planet and farmers.

Doug Forster, Chief Sourcing Officer at J.Crew Group said: "We are excited by Regenagri's programme and are exploring ways to expand it to more farmers and more fabrics in the future."

By 2022 they were ready to launch their very first regenagri-certified cotton collection.

J.Crew Group works directly with farms in Texas and Louisiana, USA to improve their farming practices with the end goal of achieving regenagri certification. The regenerative farming practices they support include no till or minimum till, cover cropping and diverse crop rotations, and integrating livestock where possible. These practices result in increased soil biodiversity, as well as overall species biodiversity on the farm. For the 2021 cotton harvest, this programme positively impacted over 600 acres (242.811 hectares) of land and committed to 968 bales of cotton (approximately 210 tons). This work impacted approximately 24 farming families across 21 farms.

In the second year of the programme, they expanded the area covered to 75,000 acres (30351.423 hectares) of soil across 26 farms in Texas, Louisiana, Alabama and California.

2021 also marked the beginning of our partnership with J.Crew Group and their supplier Arvind Ltd. to support farmers in India to transition to regenerative practices. Through this partnership, J.Crew Group invested in converting 2,400 acres across hundreds of smallholder farms in India to regenerative farming practices, all certified to the regenagri standard.

To support their growers, J.Crew Group also provides 'impact incentives' or premiums. This involves the brand making direct payments to the farmers in the programme. In 2022 they distributed over USD 800,000 in premiums to their partners in India and the USA to help fund transition and certification.

The fashion group continues to lead the way in sustainably produced fashion. Their goal for 2025 is to sustainably source 100 percent of their key fibers, including 100 percent of their cotton. We look forward to continuing to support them and the farms who produce their cotton with our scalable and inclusive programme.

# FARMER SUCCESS STORIES

## VINOD BHENDE

REAPING RETURNS WITH LOW-COST, REGENERATIVE FARMING IN INDIA Regenagri provides scalable and inclusive regenerative farming standards for farmers and supply chain operators, no matter their size or location. Here, smallholder farmer Vinod describes how joining Regenagri's programme has led to an increase in both yields and income.



#### "Regenerative practices not only transformed my land but also my thinking"

#### / Vinod Sukhdeorao Bhende,

a progressive cotton farmer from Amravati, Maharashtra

"We must leave behind a prosperous land and a healthy environment for the future generations. I am committed to this cause," says 56-yearold Vinod Sukhdeorao Bhende, a progressive cotton farmer from Dabhada village in Amravati district of Maharashtra, India.

When Vinod joined the regenagri certification programme in 2021 he was grappling with low productivity, and worsening soil health on his farm due to excessive use of chemical fertilisers and pesticides. "My spending on inputs was ballooning. I had to cut my household budget to pay for spraying chemicals," he said. Despite his investment, production was low and running his household was a struggle.

Civil society organisation Solidaridad offers training to small holder farmers in India using the regenagri standard as a framework. Vinod met the Solidaridad field team based in Dhamangaon who encouraged him to attend regenerative agriculture training sessions. He met fellow farmers who told him about the benefits of regenerative practices, like preparing low-cost bio-inputs on the farm to reduce expenses and improve soil health.

After joining the regenagri programme, Vinod asked for Solidaridad's support to test his farm's soil. The results helped him understand its nutrient profile and plan his farming activities accordingly. He registered his one-acre cotton farm with the regenagri programme, while also practising regenerative agriculture on another seven-acre plot.

Vinod uses intercropping and grows soybean, cotton, orange and wheat on his farm. He uses bio-repellents like Dashparni, instead of chemical pesticides. He also makes vermicompost — a natural fertiliser — from the cow dung and cotton stubble on his farm. To manage disease he uses a trichoderma formulation (a fungal agent that controls soilborne diseases) and applies it to the soil twice a year. These bio-inputs are low-cost and have helped Vinod bring down his expenses by nearly 13 percent, along with improving the health of the soil. "The soil is no longer hard", he says.

"I always wanted to farm in a way that prevents damage to our environment and Mother Earth. After joining the regenagri programme, I understood the importance of simple practices like covering the soil, minimum tillage, animal integration, intercropping, and keeping living roots in the soil — all of which contribute to soil health."

Vinod grows cotton on drip irrigation. Animal integration is another aspect of the regenagri framework. "I put the cattle for grazing on the plot once the crop is removed, this way the manure is distributed evenly across the land," he says.

"Regenerative practices not only transformed my land but also my thinking", says Vinod. "I always believed that you have to first invest money in your land before you get returns from it, but now I think you have to invest in the right efforts to get good returns from your land."

Since Vinod joined the regenagri programme he's seen a 16 percent increase in the yield from his one-acre cotton farm. Improved yields and savings have increased his overall annual income by 30 percent. His son can now use the money as initial capital to start his own venture, along with his wife.

"I'm now motivating other farmers to adopt environment-friendly and cost-effective regenerative practices," he says.

### SHATHI SULTANI

NATURE-BASED MANGO FARMING During 2023 we partnered with a number of international civil society organisations to support farmers, and particularly smallholders, to use more regenerative practices. And the results are tangible. One such partner, civil society organisation Solidaridad, offers training to mango farmers in Bangladesh, using the regenagri standard as a framework.



"Previously, out of a 50 kilogram yield of beans, 20 kilograms would turn out to be pest-infested. Now, fewer than five kilograms are damaged, which has helped increase my income massively."

#### / Shathi Sultani,

a smallholder mango farmer working on her farm in Kalaroa, Bangladesh.

Shathi Sultana is a smallholder mango farmer from Kalaroa Upazila, Satkhira district in Bangladesh. Shathi is among the 500 Bangladeshi mango farmers who received regenagri certification in 2022 with the support of Solidaridad.

Shathi grows mangoes in her orchard spread across half an acre of land, while intercropping with beans, other vegetables (such as bottle gourd and sweet gourd) and Napier grass for cows, all through the year. Besides making the soil more fertile, intercropping, one of the practices recommended under the regenagri framework, has also helped diversify her income beyond mangoes (a seasonal crop), improving her earnings.

In 2022, she earned nearly 240,000 taka (about £1,700) by selling the mangoes and 15,000 taka (about £105) from the other vegetables in her orchard. In 2023 she sold mangoes worth 127,000 taka (about £905) and vegetables worth 6,000 taka (about £42). By growing fodder on her farm, she doesn't have to spend money on buying it elsewhere.

Inspired by Shathi's success, other mango farmers have started intercropping on their mango orchards to get year-round economic benefits.

Shathi is acutely aware of how better yield depends on healthy soil. So she's stopped using a tractor to plough her orchard, and instead practises minimum tillage. This has also reduced labour costs.

Shathi also credits her success to learning about careful use of chemicals and shifting to bio-inputs. She said: "Through Solidaridad's training on regenerative farming, I've learned to use only green-labelled pesticides, which are not harmful to the environment. A I've completely stopped using the red- and yellowlabelled ones. I also try to use compost instead of chemical fertilisers, because chemicals can reduce the earth's production capacity over time. I've become more conscious about not hurting the earth while farming." Shathi and fellow farmers no longer burn fallen leaves, and instead use them to make natural compost.

Shathi carefully follows the recommendations of the fertiliser recommendation card provided by the Soil Resources Development Institute (SRDI), a government organisation. She also uses pheromone traps, yellow traps and mahogany oil to eliminate harmful insects; these eco-friendly measures do not harm beneficial insects, increase pollination levels, and reduce the risk of health hazards significantly. "For instance, previously, out of a 50 kilogram yield of beans, 20 kilograms would turn out to be pest-infested. Now, fewer than five kilograms are damaged, which has helped increase my income massively." she adds.

To water the orchard Shathi uses a filter pipe to maximise water-use efficiency.

There's a notable change in the way mango farmers in Satkhira are now farming their land. They're planting cover crops, practising minimum tillage, and have stopped cutting down trees. Instead, they're planting different trees surrounding their orchard, such as the Lombu (African mahogany) tree, known for its ability to absorb and store a fairly high amount of carbon.

With increased income, Shathi wants to grow her farm and invest in her children's education. Her husband, a teacher, helps her on the farm whenever he gets time. The couple is passionate about educating their children and farming. "I want to continue farming as long as I can," she says.

## FUTURE PLANS

Just as we support farms and businesses to make continuous progress towards more regenerative production systems, we strive to improve what Regenagri does and how we do it, year upon year. Regenagri's overarching goal is to drive the positive impact of regenerative agriculture at scale. In 2024 we want our programme to encompass:

- 2 million hectares of land (100% increase on 2023)
- 500,000 farms (150% increase on 2023)
- 2,000 supply chain companies (130% increase on 2023)

Here you can read about some of the work we'll be doing to support these ambitious aims.

#### Improving and expanding our standards

Our standards play a vital role in the global journey towards regenerative agriculture.

2024 will see the release of the updated regenagri Carbon Standard. This standard will provide a system carefully tailored to an agricultural context. Existing carbon programmes are often too limited, particularly for smaller scale farms, due to implementation challenges, high costs and poor quality assurance. We intend to change this.

During 2024 we will also implement the following supply chain and insetting standards updates:

- 1. Product-specific modules.
- 2. Further traceability solutions, based on physical tracing and forensic testing, in addition to the Transaction Certificates systems.
- Due diligence requirements to meet the recent regulations and requirements for claims and impact insetting.

Our updated standards will meet a much wider range of needs for brand and supply chain operators looking to make claims about, and use, regeneratively grown products. They will also facilitate a system to bring economic benefits to farms in two ways:

- Farms can sell the certified impact they've achieved to their supply chain partners who are looking for insetting opportunities. This impact is measured, for example, as reduction of carbon footprint through reduction of GHG emissions and sequestration of CO2.
- 2. Supply chain partners can make impact incentive payments to farms according to their level of impact as confirmed and verified by the regenagri programme.

We will make necessary changes to ensure that our standards remain aligned with regulations. This includes the EU Deforestation Regulation and the Green Claims directive, which aim to protect consumers from greenwashing. Consequently, all regenagri-certified organisations will automatically meet these globally important requirements.

We will work on integrating additional context-based data, as well as necessary improvements in verification procedures and traceability in the regenagri Standard Criteria for farms.

Finally, we will roll out a regenagri-approved training programme for professionals and service providers responsible for implementing the Regenagri programme, or delivering its services. The training will equip professionals and service providers with the knowledge needed to carry out assessments against regenagri requirements and to correctly implement regenagri protocols.

#### Technological advances

Technology plays an important role in scaling regenerative agriculture verifications. Over the past few years we've been looking at ways to increase efficiency and accuracy while safeguarding our programme's rigour and the integrity of its data.

While we will still need on-site audits for certifications, we plan to integrate the use of remote measurement applications into our process to verify data and reduce the auditing burden on farms. We will work closely with our technology partners to deliver this.

#### Governance and finance

As Regenagri expands we want to make sure that its governance maintains a strong structure that's able to meet our stakeholders' expectations. This includes multi-sector representation and impartiality. In 2024 we plan to expand the Board of Directors to ensure all regions in which we work are represented, as well as opening up to external investors.

We want to make sure that Regenagri C.i.C. remains financially healthy. In 2023 the company made a 21% net profit margin. All profits are reinvested into the business to support the expansion and investments planned over 2024 and 2025.

#### Keeping an eye on the bigger picture

We must maintain the regenerative farming movement's positive momentum. Regenagri will keep working hard to support farmers, supply chain operators and brands to make vital changes to become truly climate resilient.

#### A CLOSING NOTE FROM OUR CEO

"As the Regenagri initiative grows we keep learning on many different fronts; from understanding the needs of farms and supply chains, to technologies and systems that support the integrity and scalability of the programme.

We have a huge opportunity to create a positive, global impact on our environment, while making a notable difference to farmers' incomes. I'm excited about how much more we can achieve in the coming years.

We have set for ourselves ambitious goals to keep moving at pace towards our vision of a world in which regenerative farming is the norm. We look forward to you joining us on this journey."



**Franco Costantini,** CEO, Regenagri C.i.C

## FINANCE

### Where our income comes from



Ninety-five-percent of our income comes from licensing fees from organisations who use our programme.

The remaining five percent comes from payment for support services we provide, such as training. We do not carry out any certification or auditing services. This is done by a third-party body, Control Union.

### RESULTS

#### Financial year ending 31 December 2023

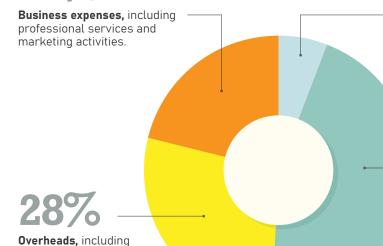
The strong growth in uptake of the regenagri programme was accompanied by a net profit margin of 22%.

All the profits will be reinvested into the company to support the expansion and investments planned for 2024 and 2025.

#### HOW WE SPEND OUR INCOME

21%

indirect staff costs





**Cost of sales.** This includes all costs for providing our services including hiring consultants and external fees for delivering our digital tools.



**Costs and investments** for development and management of the programme and the regenagri platform. This includes standards development, data assurance and stakeholder engagement.

## OUR STRUCTURE

Regenagri is registered in the UK as a Community Interest Company (C.i.C.). This status provides us with a legal structure that's specifically designed to benefit the community, environment or pursue social objectives rather than maximising profits for shareholders.

Regenagri C.i.C. is required by law to engage with the local community and provide transparent reporting on its impact. This ensures that we remain accountable to our stakeholders, including farmers, funders, and the wider community.

Regenagri C.i.C.'s shareholders are Stichting Solidaridad Foundation and Solidaridad Network Asia Limited.

We have a three-tiered structure:

#### 1. Board of Directors

Our Board of Directors is responsible for forming and guiding the organisation's long-term strategic vision, priorities, and policies. It also oversees the financial aspects of the organisation. We plan to expand our board of directors to include members from a wider regional spread in the coming months and years.

#### 2. Steering advisory group

The steering advisory group is responsible for supporting Regenagri's technical development. It consists of experts from various regenerative agriculture fields, including:

- greenhouse gas measurements
- biodiversity
- transition financing

Its role is to offer external expertise and a thorough review of our work to ensure that the regenagri Standard Criteria, methodologies, and data platform are strong and reliable. Any organisation that shares our values and mission is welcome to express its interest in getting involved. Find out more about the group.

#### 3. Secretariat

The Secretariat is headed by Regenagri C.i.C's CEO, Franco Costantini. Its primary role is to facilitate and oversee the implementation of the company's strategies, programmes and standards. This involves working closely with stakeholders across different agricultural supply chains including:

- farmers
- manufacturers
- retailers
- civil society organisations

The Secretariat is responsible for developing and continuously improving the regenagri standard, criteria, and guidelines. We work collaboratively with experts, stakeholders, and partners to ensure that our standards reflect best practices and address key sustainability challenges in regenerative agriculture.

Working alongside we have a core team of eight dedicated staff members. This team looks after our standards, data integrity, stakeholder engagement and development. We then have an international network of regional representatives who provide local support.







**Regenagri C.i.C.** E: info@regenagri.org T: +44 (0)203 393 3051