

# **A Call to Action**

Building a more resilient and sustainable  
food and agriculture system

**Annual report  
May 2024**



**Forum for the  
Future of Agriculture®**

# Background

In March 2023, the Forum for the Future of Agriculture published a Call to Action (CTA), centred around seven commitments, which we believe to be essential to building a more resilient and sustainable food and agriculture system which is both climate smart and nature positive.

Our first annual report on the Call to Action is designed to detail the activities we have undertaken as the Forum, and the progress made, over the past 12 months as well as looking ahead to the next year and beyond. The report also features examples and illustrations of the work of many of our partners across many areas of our Call to Action.



At our 2023 Annual Conference we captured comments from the audience on each of our Call to Action commitments



# Why did we launch the Call to Action?

Against a backdrop of squeezed farm incomes, the effects of a changing climate and loss of biodiversity, as well as continued challenges in access to affordable, healthy, nutritious food, it appears increasingly clear that the food and agriculture system is in need of urgent adaptation and transformation.

There is no doubt that this system does possess the human know-how and ingenuity, innovation and technology, and natural capital, to not only increase its productivity, resilience, and sustainability, but also to conserve and restore biodiversity and eco-system services as well as reduce its carbon footprint. Indeed, it can also play a vital role in removing billions of tonnes of carbon from the atmosphere and locking it up in soil, forests, peatland and wetlands.

Nevertheless, the global pandemic, which defined the early years of this decade, combined with conflicts, such as the one in Ukraine, and droughts brought on by record-busting high temperatures have served to again remind us of the agri-food system's potential fragility – a fragility that is likely to come under increasing pressure from global warming and the loss of biodiversity.

It is for these reasons that the Forum for the Future of Agriculture re-committed itself last year to play a stronger role in helping the agri-food system to address these challenges and also to seize the opportunities presented by a transformation built on systemic change.

## The commitments

Whilst general progress is arguably already being made toward achieving these goals, the Forum, along with our partners who are part of the agri-food system, recognise the need to go further and faster. We therefore agreed to work individually and collectively, sharing learning, knowledge and best practices, with a long-term perspective, towards:

- CTA1** Developing and scaling regenerative agriculture, in conjunction with similar approaches, underpinned by common metrics driving enhanced outcomes for productive and environmentally sustainable farming.
- CTA2** Valuing and accounting for the use of natural capital, such as water, soil, air, and biodiversity, by the agri-food system.
- CTA3** Contributing to the development and alignment of public funding market-based incentives for nature restoration and delivery of other eco-system services.
- CTA4** Sharing knowledge and pursue innovation in technology and practices that support both food and environmental security and move away from those which don't.
- CTA5** Integrating sustainability into supply chains and the global agri-food trade system, leaving no one behind.
- CTA6** Informing the development of more coherent agri-food policies at local, national, regional and global level and continue to build public and private partnerships for greater impact.
- CTA7** Enhancing consumer awareness of their role in building a more resilient and sustainable food and agriculture system.

In addition, the Forum will continue to use its convening power in each of these areas, both in Europe and globally, to bring together the relevant stakeholders from government, academia, civil society, growers and land managers, and the agri-food industry. This should help to identify new, innovative thinking, ideas, best practices, and solutions, that can work systemically, leading to a more resilient and sustainable food and agriculture system, and which is climate smart and nature positive.

# Focus in 2023-24

Although we will eventually be active in every area of the Call to Action, our main focus over the past year has been on the following commitments:

- CTA1** Developing and scaling regenerative agriculture.
- CTA3** Development and alignment of public funding market-based incentives for nature restoration and delivery of other eco-system services.
- CTA4** Sharing knowledge and pursue innovation in technology and practices that support both food and environmental security and move away from those which don't.
- CTA5** Integrating sustainability into supply chains and the global agri-food trade system.

In addition, we have begun to undertake activities in the following areas:

- CTA2** Valuing and accounting for the use of natural capital.
- CTA6** Informing the development of more coherent agri-food policies.
- CTA7** Enhancing consumer awareness.

Whilst we do not pretend to answer all questions or to provide all the solutions, we believe that through our own actions under the Call to Action, together with those of our partners, many of which are featured in this report, we can catalyse different thinking and inform the development of new ideas that can contribute to a more resilient and sustainable food and agriculture system.

To this end, we will continue to work on this and expand our activities in 2024 and beyond.



# CTA1 Developing and scaling regenerative agriculture

## The Forum's activity and progress

Over the past year, the main focus of the Forum's activity has been its exploration of how to develop and scale regenerative agriculture in Europe and beyond through a series of workshops and interviews and wide-ranging consultation of our network. This involved more than 200 key stakeholders across the agri-food value chain, farmers, policymakers, civil society and the policy-making community across Europe and globally. In particular, the inquiry explored what regenerative agriculture means, the benefits and costs, as well as looking into what stands in the way or could accelerate its development and scaling up.

### *The key takeaways from the inquiry were:*

1. With improving soil health at its core, regenerative agriculture is broadly inclusive and has the potential to unlock a range of environmental sustainability and climate-related benefits whilst increasing long-term farm productivity.
2. A strong scientific evidence base for soil health can and should be used to inform formulation of robust 'outcome-based' metrics for regenerative agriculture which will enable the tracking of progress and avoidance of 'green-washing' claims
  - a. independent verification of outcomes seen as a necessary backstop.
3. A compelling economic case is vital to covering the costs and incentivising growers to make and sustain the transition
  - a. requires development of predictable and durable market-based revenue streams, the most likely of which are payments for decarbonizing the value chain (e.g. Scope III emission reductions and for carbon removal credits to be used beyond the value chain),
  - b. public funding (e.g. through the CAP) should be simplified, to improve access and alleviate the administrative burden, and the value increased (to cover costs of transition and any 'yield drag'),
  - c. use of data generated by growers, through participation in market-based or public subsidy schemes linked to improvements in soil health/regenerative agriculture could be used to unlock other financial benefits such as preferential rates for farm loans, mortgages and insurance.
4. Policy interventions can and should be part of the equation, by helping to enable or de-risk the transition, particularly increasing access to information and advice, technology and innovation, rules for new market based revenue streams and necessary infrastructure
  - a. coherence and consistency are critical and a 'filter' through which a policy can be assessed for its impact on enabling the goal of developing and scaling regenerative agriculture to be met would be a positive innovation,
  - b. policies assessed to have the greatest impact should be expedited to help achieve the goal quicker.
5. Achieving the goal requires systematic alignment of knowledge sharing, innovation and technology, finance, and collaboration across the value chain with farmers and land managers, at the centre
  - a. need to combine the various nodes of activity on regenerative agriculture taking place across the value chain.

*The final report was published on October 2, 2023 and can be read [here](#).*

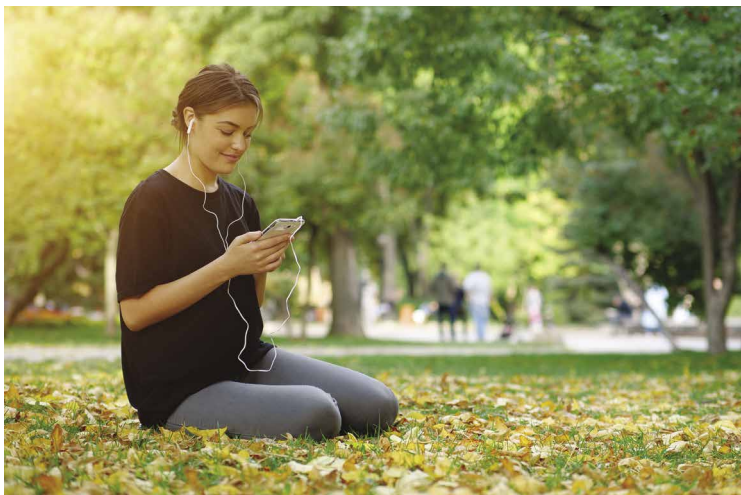




## CTA1 Developing and scaling regenerative agriculture

### The Forum's activity and progress

In addition, the question of how to develop and scale regenerative agriculture has featured regularly on the Forum's Food Systems podcasts, which can be accessed [here](#).



We were also delighted to host policymakers, industry and NGOs on field visits to our partner farms in Belgium which are already making the transition to regenerative agriculture. This provided the opportunity to share knowledge and key learnings as well as to hear first-hand the pain points which farmers and land managers have and are experiencing in making the transition and catalyse thinking amongst the different stakeholders on how they can contribute to address them.



# CTA1 Developing and scaling regenerative agriculture

## Activity and progress from our partners

Many of our partners are engaged in supporting the transition to regenerative agriculture. In addition to the example provided below, you can learn more on [our website](#).

### Partner Case Study

## Nestlé working to drive adoption of regenerative agriculture



By 2025, Nestlé has committed to source 20% of its key ingredients from farmers adopting regenerative agricultural practices, and 50% by 2030. At the end of 2023, over 15% of the company's key ingredients were sourced from farmers and land managers adopting regenerative agricultural practices. The company's approach is set out in the Nestlé Agriculture Framework, which encourages the development of locally relevant solutions, adapted to the wide range of ingredients used in our products. The framework includes key concepts from conservation agriculture, agro-ecology and precision farming.

[Learn more about the Nestlé Agriculture Framework \*\*here\*\*.](#)

As part of this approach, Nestlé has been collaborating with farmers in northern France since 2018 to implement regenerative agriculture methods through the Sols Vivants initiative, which is supported by partners like Earthworm Foundation and Lidl. With a focus on agroforestry, various cover crops and the provision of technical and financial support to farmers, over 200 farmers have been engaged and 72,000 tons of raw materials sourced through regenerative agriculture practices.

[Learn more about the Sols Vivants initiative \*\*here\*\*.](#)

Also, the Landscape Enterprise Networks (LENs) initiatives in Hungary, Italy, Poland and the United Kingdom bring together farmers, experts and businesses. The collaborative projects highlight the economic value to farmers of wheat and other crops, of ecosystem services, and also help establish measures to protect and enhance them. In the United Kingdom, results for 2023 included seven kilometers of hedgerows planted and 16,000 hectares of land worked on using regenerative agricultural practices to deliver soil, water health and biodiversity improvements.

[Learn more about Landscape Enterprise Networks \(LENs\) \*\*here\*\*.](#)

### Link to other CTA Commitments

**CTA3**

Nestlé's work on regenerative agriculture also supports CTA3 on the alignment of market based incentives and

**CTA5**

CTA5 on integrating sustainability into supply chains. For example, the company has committed over CHF1.2 billion to enhancing regenerative agriculture across its supply chain by 2025.



# CTA1 Developing and scaling regenerative agriculture

## Activity and progress from our partners

Many of our partners are engaged in supporting the transition to regenerative agriculture. In addition to the example provided below, you can learn more on [our website](#).

### Partner Case Study

## Cargill RegenConnect® – expanding farmer access to the growing environmental marketplace



Cargill continues to make progress on scaling up regenerative agriculture through its RegenConnect® program, which connects farmers to the growing environmental marketplace by paying them for improved soil health and positive environmental outcomes. In 2023, the company expanded the program in the United States from 15 to 24 states, providing farmers with payments per metric ton of carbon sequestered per acre. The program now covers more commodities, including cotton, and provides improved ease and access to enrolment via mobile devices.

The company has also announced the expansion of the program in Europe for eligible farmers in Germany, Poland, Romania and France – building on two years of success in North America. Cargill will offer market-competitive pricing based on each metric ton of carbon sequestered per hectare for primary crops in Cargill's supply chains, including rapeseed, wheat, corn, barley and sunflower. In recognition of its innovative approach to creating a more resilient and secure food system, Cargill RegenConnect® received the prestigious 2023 Edison Award™.

Community Impact | Ethics and Compliance | Diversity Impact | Sustainable Supply Chains | Regenerative Agriculture

Investing in sustainability research in Brazil's Cerrado biome

Reducing canola emissions in Australia

Bringing agroforestry benefits to cocoa-growing regions in West Africa

2023 ESG Report Cargill

Cargill 2023

Learn more about Cargill RegenConnect® [here](#) and in the company's [2023 ESG Report](#).

### Link to other CTA Commitments

CTA3

Cargill's work on regenerative agriculture also supports CTA3 on the alignment of market-based incentives.



# CTA1 Developing and scaling regenerative agriculture

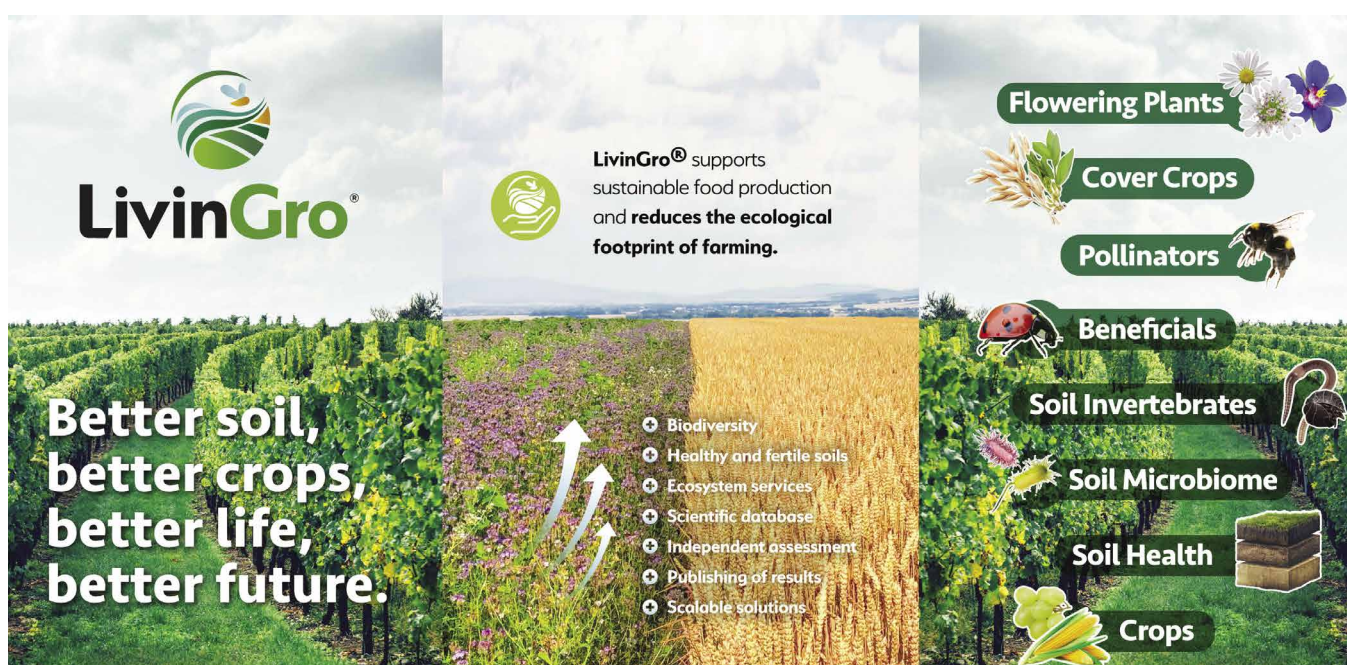
## Activity and progress from our partners

Many of our partners are engaged in supporting the transition to regenerative agriculture. In addition to the example provided below, you can learn more on [our website](#).

### Partner Case Study

## LivinGro® – regenerative ag protocols to enhance biodiversity and profitability

**syngenta**



In 2019, Syngenta launched a programme aimed at improving the sustainability of agriculture. Deeply rooted in science, Syngenta LivinGro® takes a holistic look at agriculture on productive farms. This research initiative promotes regenerative agriculture practices by focusing on biodiversity improvement and soil health enhancement and is more comprehensive than in typical agricultural trials. Multi-year trials across the globe assess more than 50 different parameters relating to crop cultivation, biodiversity, soil health, and climate impact. Together with science partners, Syngenta is collecting extensive data to support the development of robust regenerative agriculture protocols that will help farmers enhance biodiversity and profitability.

 [Learn more about LivinGro® here.](#)

[Link to other CTA Commitments](#)

**CTA4**

Syngenta's work on regenerative agriculture also supports CTA4 on sharing knowledge and pursuing innovation in technology and practices.

# CTA1 Developing and scaling regenerative agriculture

## Activity and progress from our partners

Many of our partners are engaged in supporting the transition to regenerative agriculture. In addition to the example provided below, you can learn more on [our website](#).

### Partner Case Study

## NutriBudget – optimising sustainable nutrient use across agriculture



Since September 2022, the RISE Foundation has supported the NutriBudget project which will develop a prototype of an integrated nutrient management platform that contributes to optimise nutrient use across different agricultural production systems and regions in the EU with the aim to reduce pollution and nutrients losses.

Improving nutrient use is one of the key tenets of regenerative agriculture. Indeed, the environmental costs of nutrient pollution in the EU have been estimated to range between €70-320 billion annually, highlighting the importance of the European Commission's Green Deal's objectives to reduce these losses.

NutriBudget will contribute to systemically optimise nutrient flows and budgets across different agricultural production systems and regions in the EU to limit and reduce pollution due to the excessive use of nutrients and nutrient losses in the environment.

Thereby, RISE and the NutriBudget will aim to enhance knowledge on environmentally sustainable farming and thus support scaling of regenerative agricultural practices.

 [Learn more about NutriBudget \*\*here\*\*.](#)

### Link to other CTA Commitments

#### CTA4

The RISE Foundation's work on NutriBudget also supports CTA4 – the commitment to share knowledge and pursuing innovation in technology and practices.



# CTA3 Aligning public funding and market-based incentives for nature restoration and delivery of other eco-system services

## The Forum's activity and progress

One of the key insights from the inquiry on how to develop and scale regenerative agriculture was the need for a compelling economic case to support farmers and land managers to make and sustain the transition. To that end, the Forum has kicked off its work in this area through an interactive workshop in September 2023 which featured policymakers, public and private finance organisations, agri-food value chain representatives, academia and NGOs. In particular, the workshop explored:

- what funding and financing the transition means; why it is necessary and how it could potentially unlock other key enablers of the transition;
- the existing funding and finance options and new opportunities available to the EU/Member States, (including reform of the Common Agricultural Policy) and the agri-food industry to fund the transition;
- the role that emerging revenue streams from eco-system services can play in enabling farmers to make and sustain the transition and the critical success factors.

One of the key takeaways from this initial exercise has been the need to identify, further develop and align, systemically, both public funding and market-based incentives for regenerative agriculture generally and specifically for nature restoration, climate mitigation and other eco-system services.

In addition, the key insights, takeaways and workshop presentations on funding, financing and new revenue streams have been included in a report, which the Forum published in January 2024, entitled Making and sustaining the transition. This can be downloaded [here](#).

Our work on this report was further complemented by a range of other activities including a [Forum dialogue](#) on the evolution of eco-system service markets and collaboration with Food+Drink Europe, who also commissioned a [report](#) on funding the transition.



Looking ahead, funding and financing the transition to a more resilient and sustainable food and agriculture system, which is climate smart and nature positive, will be a key focus of our work in 2024. We started the discussion at our 2024 Annual Conference in March and it will continue throughout 2024.



## CTA3 Aligning public funding and market-based incentives for nature restoration and delivery of other eco-system services

### Activity and progress from our partners

Many of our partners are engaged in aligning public funding and market-based incentives for nature restoration and delivery of other eco-system services. In addition to the example provided below, you can learn more on [our website](#).

#### Partner Case Study

### Carbon by Indigo – scaling a durable new revenue stream for farmers



Carbon by Indigo incentivises and rewards farmers for the adoption of regenerative agriculture practices which reduce on-farm emissions and removes carbon from the atmosphere and stores it in agriculture soils. Since its inception, the programme has sequestered or abated the equivalent of 300,000 metric tons of carbon dioxide over the first three carbon harvests. These high integrity, independently verified, registry-issued credits are used to compensate for unavoidable emissions incurred by companies within and beyond the value chain. With prices in the range of \$60-80 per credit, they promise a durable new income stream for farmers making the transition to regenerative agriculture.



Learn more about Carbon by Indigo [here](#).

Carbon by Indigo produces first-of-its-kind, registry-issued agricultural carbon credits, while supporting farmers in their transition towards more sustainable farming practices



#### 1. FARMERS MAKE PRACTICE CHANGES

By adding new or intensifying practices, farmers improve their soil health. Agronomists support farmers through the transition.



#### 2. CARBON CREDIT GENERATION

Soil samples and on-farm data are collected and anonymized, with results securely shared for verification and credit issuance.



#### 3. CORPORATIONS PURCHASE CREDITS

Indigo facilitates the payout process delivering at least 75% of the average credit price directly to the farmer.

#### Link to other CTA Commitments

##### CTA1

The work Indigo Ag is undertaking in this area is also supporting the development and scaling of regenerative agriculture (CTA1). Together with the company's Source programme, over 8 million acres of farmland are now enrolled in the transition to regen ag practices.



# CTA4 Sharing knowledge and pursuing innovation in technology and practices

## The Forum's activity and progress

Sharing knowledge and pursuing innovation in farm practices, as well as technologies, has always been a core objective of the Forum for the Future of Agriculture. Given that, it made sense to integrate this commitment into our Call to Action and is an area where we have continued to act and make progress over the past year.

The annual **Land and Soil Management Award**, in partnership with the European Landowners' Organization and Syngenta, is a highlight of the Forum's annual calendar putting soil at the heart of the agri-food system transformation. Indeed, one can argue that improving the health of our soils unlocks a plethora of systemic benefits ranging from the improved productivity, profitability and resilience of farms, to gains in water efficiency, carbon sequestration and the conservation and restoration of biodiversity. Yet, until recently, the health of our soils, degraded in so many parts of the world, has seldom received the attention it deserves.

The Award, made in conjunction with the European Landowners' Organization and six other partners, rewards land use and soil management practices which mitigates risk from erosion, loss of organic matter and biodiversity, diffuse contamination, and compaction as well as salinization, sealing, flooding and landslides. In doing so, the award sheds light on outstanding achievements, encouraging new concepts of land and soil protection and their implementation in land management, as well as enhancing awareness about the importance of land and soil functions, in Europe and extended territories.



The jury, chaired by Professor Martin Gerzabek and members from across the EU institutions, Universities and industry, awarded the 2024 prize to the French project **"Halage"**. It was celebrated for its remarkable contributions to soil health and biodiversity through innovative practices. Operating within l'Île-Saint-Denis, the sole urban river island city in France, "Halage" has been instrumental in revitalizing soil on a former industrial wasteland. Their eco-innovative activities not only focus on soil remediation but also prioritise social, environmental, and ecological benefits. By fostering biodiversity and engaging in public awareness

and education initiatives, "Halage" demonstrates a holistic approach to sustainable land management. The jury was particularly impressed by "Halage's" commitment to soil health remediation on a contaminated site, the potential for scaling up experimentation on-site, their monitoring of the results, and their inclusive approach to addressing regional needs through social inclusion and community engagement.

The jury also rewarded two additional projects with a diploma of recognition to:

**Bokrijk Soil and Heritage Conservation** led by Jeroen Franssens from Belgium. The project oversees a 420-hectare domain encompassing forests, meadows, swamps, peatland and old fish ponds. Sustainable harvesting technologies, aimed at minimizing environmental impact, have been adopted, alongside efforts to enhance soil water storage capacity by fortifying its natural sponge effect.

**Le Jardin des Saveurs** led by Sandrine de Moerloose & Arnaud van der Straten from Belgium. The project focuses on sustainable cultivation, abstaining entirely from chemical usage, including fertilizers, insecticides, and fungicides. Prioritizing biodiversity, they have installed birdhouses for tits, insect hotels, swallow nests, and bat boxes as part of their initiatives.

The Forum also held its annual Solutions Workshops in the spring and summer of 2023. These covered a diverse range of focus areas, several of which are listed below. To find out more about the agenda and speakers at each event, and to watch videos or read summaries of the key insights and takeaways, click on the links below.

- ▶ **Biocontrols for crop protection**
- ▶ **Agcelerating Innovation**
- ▶ **Future Forest Initiative**
- ▶ **Sustainability solutions in poultry farming**
- ▶ **Start-ups driving innovation in ag**

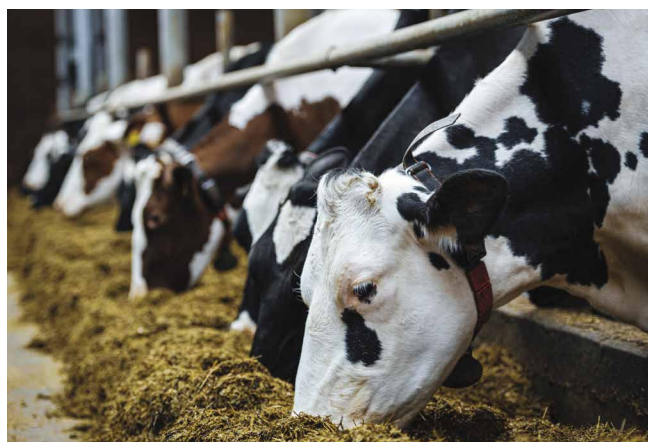
## CTA4 Sharing knowledge and pursuing innovation in technology and practices

### Activity and progress from our partners

Many of our partners are engaged in sharing knowledge and pursuing innovation in both practices and technologies that can support the transition to a more resilient and sustainable agri-food system. In addition to the example provided below, you can learn more on [our website](#).

#### Partner Case Study

### Reach4Reduction – reducing methane emissions from beef and dairy cattle



When it comes to methane emission reduction, Cargill believes there is no one-size-fits-all solution. The best solution is uniquely tailored and built based upon each farmer's individual operation, wherever they are in their sustainability journey. Cargill's holistic approach to methane emission reduction, called Reach4Reduction, encompasses three critical areas of impact:

1. On-farm productivity management to improve feed conversion rates
2. Feed and nutrition to optimise animal performance and health; and
3. Innovation and technologies that reduce methane emissions.

When it comes to innovation and technologies, in Europe, the United Kingdom and Brazil, Cargill offers SilvAir™, a feed solution that can reduce methane emissions by up to 10%. Backed by more than 10 years of research and knowledge, including more than 25 peer-reviewed studies, SilvAir™, when added to feed, stimulates a natural process in the rumen that creates ammonia from hydrogen, which would otherwise become methane. The additional ammonia can then be used by the animal to create protein.

There are clear benefits to this approach:

- Maintains production and performance whilst reducing enteric methane production by up to 10%\*.
- Replaces some dietary protein – which has potential cost advantages.
- Provides valuable soluble calcium from certified sources.
- Accurate feeding rate – as it is incorporated into compound feed, which results in a consistent and measured feed intake and result on farm.
- Investment in SilvAir™ will result in a reduction of approx. 1kg CO<sub>2</sub>/cow per day – saving up to 36 tons of CO<sub>2</sub> per year (\*based on a dairy farm with 100 cows.)

 [Further information on Cargill's Reach4Reduction initiative can be found here.](#)

 [More details on SilvAir™ can be found here.](#)

#### Link to other CTA Commitments

CTA1

The work Cargill is undertaking in this area also supports the commitments on regenerative agriculture (CTA1) and on integrating sustainability into supply chains (CTA5).

CTA5



## CTA4 Sharing knowledge and pursuing innovation in technology and practices

### Activity and progress from our partners

Many of our partners are engaged in sharing knowledge and pursuing innovation in both practices and technologies that can support the transition to a more resilient and sustainable agri-food system. In addition to the example provided below, you can learn more on [our website](#).

#### Partner Case Study

### Promoting pollinator friendly farm practices – the ELO Bee Award



The European Bee Award acknowledges the great commitment of private and public organisations, as well as the involvement of the research community, to enhance pollinators' wellbeing and support bee-friendly farming practices in Europe. Initiatives such as the European Bee Award are showcasing bees and pollinators as an essential part to enhance more sustainable farming practices in Europe. Indeed, there is a strong willingness to support innovative projects which could be scaled up for protecting bees' and pollinators' lives.

With the aim of acknowledging innovative, efficient and scalable projects that protect pollinators in Europe, the European Bee Award, established six years ago by the European Landowners' Organization (ELO) and the European Agricultural Machinery Industry Association (CEMA), was awarded in 2023 to the following winners:

**Category 'Land management practices':** the winner was **'LIFE PollinAction' Actions for boosting pollination in rural and urban areas**". PollinAction is a LIFE project aimed at increasing landscape heterogeneity and connectivity through the creation of a Green Infrastructure (GI) in rural and urban landscapes, as a tool to mitigate the pollination crisis, increase pollinator provision and help develop multifunctional spaces.

**Category 'Innovative and technological solutions':** the winner was **'SPEAR® Bioinsecticide by Vestaron'**. SPEAR® is a novel peptide bioinsecticide, developed targeting a class of peptides that could kill insect and mite pests efficiently, but would be safe for humans, birds, fish, pollinators, and the environment. The company developed a proprietary platform for peptide optimisation and for fermentation-based production, to yield a wide variety of peptide-based solutions for crop protection challenges.

 [Learn more about the European Bee Award here.](#)

#### Link to other CTA Commitments

**CTA2**

The work the European Landowners' Organization is undertaking in this area also supports the commitments on accounting for and valuing natural capital (CTA2).

## CTA4 Sharing knowledge and pursuing innovation in technology and practices

### Activity and progress from our partners

Many of our partners are engaged in sharing knowledge and pursuing innovation in both practices and technologies that can support the transition to a more resilient and sustainable agri-food system. In addition to the example provided below, you can learn more on [our website](#).

#### Partner Case Study

### Supporting and disseminating an agri-environment-focused EU research agenda



# BESTMAP



### BEHAVIOURAL, ECOLOGICAL AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC TOOLS FOR MODELLING AGRICULTURAL POLICY

As an independent public utility think tank, the RISE Foundation is dedicated to the dissemination of knowledge throughout society. It supports the creation and dissemination of knowledge through RISE-reports and actively participating in projects funded through the EU Research and Innovation Programmes that cover topics related to agriculture and the environment. Their role in these projects focuses on developing policy aspects and bringing together stakeholders at the EU level to engage in policy discussions, as well as disseminating and communicating project results. RISE collaborated with the Forum with the presentation of the BESTMAP project (which is collating lessons from research to inform CAP policy-making) to disseminate the knowledge at a 'pre-Forum event' held before the Annual Conference. RISE organised the final event, gave workshops, and is currently doing further research on how to increase the effectiveness of the policy recommendations from BESTMAP. The research on the policy recommendations to further increase biodiversity policy effectiveness will conclude this year.



To learn more listen to our recent podcast on BESTMAP [here](#).



To find out more about the 'Research Lessons to Inform Future CAP Reform' event, which featured the latest BESTMAP findings, click [here](#).



## CTA4 Sharing knowledge and pursuing innovation in technology and practices

### Activity and progress from our partners

Many of our partners are engaged in sharing knowledge and pursuing innovation in both practices and technologies that can support the transition to a more resilient and sustainable agri-food system. In addition to the example provided below, you can learn more on **our website**.

#### Partner Case Study

### Biologicals Service Center offers specialized expertise



Sharing knowledge, especially innovative technology and practices that support food and environmental security, is vital and Syngenta has recently opened their first Biologicals Service Center at the Seedcare Institute in Maintal, Germany. The Center offers specialised expertise to support the application of new biological seed treatments. These include extensive competence in microbiology – from understanding the viability on-seed and in-mixture with other active ingredients, the ability to develop assays for all microbial products, to expertise on the handling of sensitive biologicals throughout the process. It will also provide value-adding services, including advice on water quality and recipe compatibility, on-seed survivability measurement, guidelines for storage, handling and cleaning, and specialised training on proper stewardship of biologicals.

 *Further information can be found **here**.*

#### Link to other CTA Commitments

**CTA1**

Biologicals can play an important role in the development and scaling of regenerative agriculture and the work of the Biologicals Service Center is also helping to support CTA1.

# CTA5 Integrating sustainability into supply chains

## The Forum's activity and progress

One of the key questions is the extent to which trade policy can enhance – or block – the drive for a more resilient and sustainable food and agriculture system. Answering this question has become even more pertinent as value chain players have moved to integrate sustainability targets into their supply chains either on a voluntary basis or in response to demands from investors, consumers, and policymakers and NGOs, in Europe and around the world.

To try to answer the question, the Forum joined with its partners in the Global Forum for Farm Policy and Innovation (GFFPI) to organise an in-depth workshop at the OECD, in Paris, in October 2023. The workshop, which was supported by the Permanent Representations of Australia, the Netherlands and Japan, brought together OECD Member States and the Secretariat, together with a cross section of over 80 key stakeholders including farmers and land managers, value chain companies, policymakers and NGOs.



The workshop featured dynamic discussions on actionable solutions, including creating a global platform for knowledge exchange, integrating an outcomes-based approach in trade policy, and developing shared indicators to measure progress. The workshop also emphasised the importance of data and transparency and the need for collaboration between governments and the private sector globally.

Key points identified in the workshop's report, *Advancing the Role of Trade and Agricultural Sustainability*, which can be downloaded [here](#) include:

- enhancing food systems and trade through **outcomes-based approaches** to sustainability,
- intensifying global cooperation in support of **coherent policies and a global framework for sustainable agriculture**,
- **optimizing trade** to make agriculture sustainable and profitable, and
- **harnessing data and technology** to transform the way we grow and trade food.

Follow-up roundtable discussions on these findings have already taken place on the fringe of the United States Department of Agriculture renowned Annual Outlook Conference, in February 2024, and take place in Europe, (on the fringe of the Forum's Annual Conference), Australia and Canada, during the course of this year.

Our intention is to work with our partners in GFFPI to deepen these initial insights and takeaways to inform global policymakers along with all actors in the agri-food system to develop approaches in trade and supply chains that can further enhance agriculture sustainability.

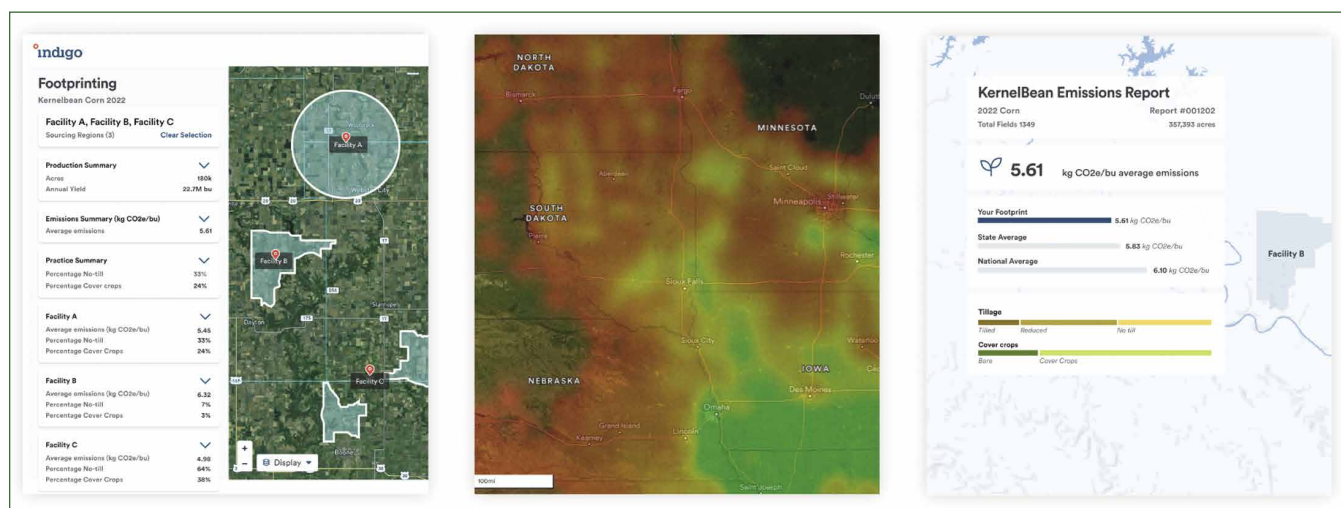
# CTA5 Integrating sustainability into supply chains

## Activity and progress from our partners

Many of our partners have undertaken activity and progressed over the past year to integrate sustainability into supply chains in the pursuit of more resilient and sustainable agri-food system. In addition to the example provided below, you can learn more on [our website](#).

### Partner Case Study

## Indigo Ag Inc. – delivering sustainably grown crops in the United States and Europe



Indigo Ag has completed five years of successful Scope 3 'emission reduction' solutions programmes in agriculture and is already used by many global multibillion dollar companies. In delivering these sustainably-grown crops, the company has reduced emissions by more than 20,000 metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalents and saved 7.4 billion gallons of water – in the supply chain. To date, farmers in Indigo Ag's sustainability programmes (Sustainable Crops, Scope 3 reductions and Carbon) have earned more than \$12 million.

In Europe, Indigo Ag is working with Wasa, part of the Barilla Group and the world's biggest producer of crispbread, to cultivate a more sustainably produced rye crop. Read more about this partnership [here](#).

Learn more about Indigo Ag's Scope 3 program [here](#).

### Link to other CTA Commitments

#### CTA1

The work Indigo Ag is undertaking in this area is also supporting the development and scaling of regenerative agriculture (CTA1) as well as the alignment of private market incentives (CTA3) to support the transition.

#### CTA3



## CTA2 Valuing and accounting for the use of natural capital

### Additional areas of activity and progress

Although the Forum's work on regenerative agriculture (CTA1) and the alignment of public and private incentives (CTA3) certainly considers the valuing and accounting for the use of natural capital, we were not directly active in this area over the past year. Nevertheless, several of our partners were involved in activities over the past twelve months which have contributed to this commitment and it will be a direct focus area for the Forum going forward.

### Activity and progress from our partners

Our partners have undertaken activity and progressed over the past year to value and account for the use of natural capital in the pursuit of a more resilient and sustainable agri-food system. In addition to the example provided below, you can learn more on [our website](#).

#### Partner Case Study

### Wildlife Estates Label – implementing private sustainable land use and wildlife management practices



Wildlife Estates Label is an initiative from the European Landowners' Organization that aims to promote sustainable land use and wildlife management practices in privately held land throughout Europe. It helps to build recognition and to raise the standards among small-scale conservation efforts, through the introduction of an objective accreditation system and a certification process.

The Wildlife Estates Label represents a voluntary commitment by land managers to work under the standards of wildlife management and conservation. It helps to promote the wide range of social, economic and environmental benefits of conservation efforts, and encourages landowners and land users to apply rigorously tested sustainable land management practices. The Label encourages best practice and helps bridge the divide between the priorities of land users and environmental concerns.

The project has currently more than 500 estates covering more than 2 million hectares to its credit and is still growing steadily. A scientific committee revises the scoring and evaluation methodologies on a regular basis, with modifications from each of the national delegations, as well as how to adapt to new EU standards and best practice guidelines.



[Learn more about Wildlife Estates project \*here\*.](#)



#### Link to other CTA Commitments

##### CTA4

The work undertaken by ELO on the Wildlife Estates Label also supports the initiative to share knowledge and pursue innovation in technology and practices (CTA4).

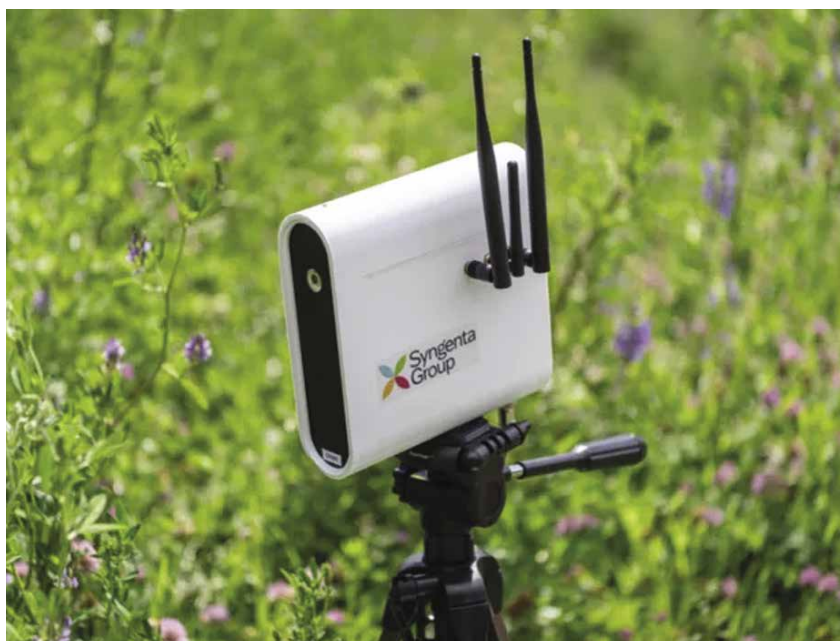
## CTA2 Valuing and accounting for the use of natural capital

### Activity and progress from our partners

Our partners have undertaken activity and progressed over the past year to value and account for the use of natural capital in the pursuit of a more resilient and sustainable agri-food system. In addition to the example provided below, you can learn more on [our website](#).

#### Partner Case Study

### The biodiversity sensor – monitoring moving species 24/7



To understand biodiversity and how best to protect it, more on-the-ground, in-the-field data than is currently being captured is needed. An example of this is the development of Syngenta's Biodiversity Sensor, which is a world-first, the first 24/7 automatic, autonomous and reliable technology to identify moving species. With a sensor network in place, the research community and organisations can generate new prediction models with high precision. The sensor network will help bring transparency to biodiversity restoration investments and generate actionable insights through novel biodiversity reporting and data framework. This will give researchers, policy makers and farmers the information they need to help biodiversity thrive.



*Further information on the Biodiversity Sensor is available [here](#).*

#### Link to other CTA Commitments

##### CTA4

The work undertaken by Syngenta on the Biodiversity Sensor is also linked to the commitment to share knowledge and pursue innovation in technology and practices (CTA4).

## CTA2 Valuing and accounting for the use of natural capital

### Activity and progress from our partners

Our partners have undertaken activity and progressed over the past year to value and account for the use of natural capital in the pursuit of a more resilient and sustainable agri-food system. In addition to the example provided below, you can learn more on [our website](#).

#### Partner Case Study

### Enabling a water positive impact in operations, supply chains and communities



Cargill's global ambition is to enable a water-positive impact across their operations, supply chains, and communities by 2030. They define a water-positive impact as improving watershed health by addressing the shared water challenges of availability, quality, and access to safe drinking water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH).

Since 2020, the company has taken a local, context-based approach to water stewardship that prioritises action where it's needed most, based on the specific water challenges faced by the local community and the ability to drive change. Cargill's approach goes well beyond their own operational footprint, extending to the communities where they operate as well as where they can have the greatest impact: agricultural supply chains.

Their targets were developed following a data-driven, risk-based approach, in close partnership with the World Resources Institute (WRI). They prioritise action where it is needed most, based on the specific challenges faced by Cargill's local businesses, communities, and the surrounding region.

- **Operations:** Implement water stewardship practices at all priority facilities by 2025.
- **Supply chains:** Enable restoration of 600 billion litres of water and reduction of 5,000 metric tons of pollutants in water-stressed regions by 2030.
- **Communities:** Enable improved access to safe drinking water and sanitation, reaching 500,000 people in priority communities by 2030.

One example of their progress is, in 2021 Cargill and Global Water Challenge (GWC) launched Cargill Currents, an initiative to provide access to safe drinking water, sanitation, and enhanced water security in priority regions through programmes and solutions tailored to the local community. Through this programme, nearly 48,000 people have benefited from improved access to safe drinking water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) in cocoa growing communities in West Africa.



[Learn more about Cargill's approach to water here.](#)



## CTA6 Informing the development of more coherent agri-food policies

### Additional areas of activity and progress

As the policy environment became more challenging and, arguably, polarised at EU level and in Member States, the Forum used its regional *Forum in Madrid*, in May 2023, to publish a call for more **coherence in agri-food policies** to secure a sustainable transition. This work has been further developed through a series of 'strategic dialogue' workshops designed to bring together different perspectives on the ideal state for the agri-food system in Europe, what is getting in the way, and what we need to do differently to achieve the objectives.

Working in partnership with other platforms, we will progress this in 2024, which will see elections to the European Parliament and a new Commission take office.

### Activity and progress from our partners

Our partners have undertaken activity and progressed over the past year to inform the development of more coherent agri-food policies in the pursuit of a more resilient and sustainable agri-food system. In addition to the example provided below, you can learn more on **our website**.

#### Partner Case Study

### Policy informing towards a Sustainable Agriculture



## About IUCN

IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature) is a membership Union of government and civil society organisations. Together, we work to advance sustainable development and create a just world that values and conserves nature.

Established in 1948, the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) is an international organisation working in the field of nature conservation and sustainable use of natural resources. IUCN is instrumental in aligning conservation and sustainability efforts towards coherent agri-food policies. The organisation's efforts are ingrained not just in commitments, but as a core function of its mission to influence, encourage, and assist societies in conserving the integrity and diversity of nature.

Through dialogue brokering and knowledge management and production, IUCN fosters discussions that prioritise long-term ecological health alongside agricultural productivity and food security. Dialogues are vital in shaping a more inclusive approach to policymaking, where biodiversity and ecosystem services are integral to agricultural strategies. Additionally, IUCN has developed two upcoming reports focused on relevant issues such as nature-based solutions and sustainable agriculture, as well as on metrics for assessing biodiversity in agricultural environments.

As we approach the 2024 European Parliament elections and Commission transition, IUCN will continue to champion policies that align with sustainable and conservation principles, furthering the objectives of CTA6.



**Learn more about IUCN [here](#).**

### Additional areas of activity and progress

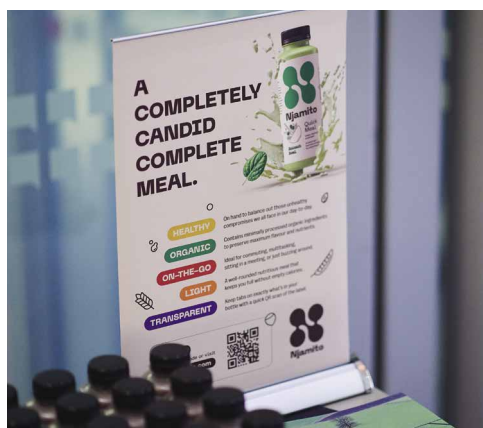
Although the Forum was not directly active over the past year in enhancing consumer awareness of the need for a more resilient and sustainable food and agriculture system, several of our partners continued to support this commitment through their own actions. We were delighted to feature one of them – LoginEKO and their Njamito product – at the Forum’s 2024 Annual Conference.

### Activity and progress from our partners

Our partners have undertaken activity and progressed over the past year to enhance consumer awareness in the pursuit of a more resilient and sustainable agri-food system. In addition to the example provided below, you can learn more on [our website](#).

#### Partner Case Study

### Njamito – enhancing consumer awareness from field to fridge



Our newest partner, LoginEKO, (a Login5 Foundation project), is dedicated to facilitating the transition to a sustainable food system for generations to come. As a part of their mission - healthy food for everyone - they developed Njamito, a meal-in-a-bottle, designed to provide a healthy alternative for people with active and busy lifestyles. Njamito contains pea protein, grain oats, fruits and vegetables and nuts. It is free from aromas, sugars, and flavour enhancers. With 300 Kcal, it contains all the fibres, carbohydrates, proteins and vitamins to keep people going for up to three hours. In addition to innovative nutritional characteristics of this recipe and product, each Njamito bottle is equipped with a QR code that leads to a full traceability report. There, anyone can see where each of the ingredients came from, as well as information on processing, packaging, transport and storage. One of Njamito’s key ingredients - oat porridge - is fully traceable from LoginEKO’s field to the final product.

Njamito was available to all participants to sample at the 2024 Forum for the Future of Agriculture Annual Conference.

 You can learn more about Njamito [here](#).

#### Link to other CTA Commitments

##### CTA5

The work of LoginEKO is also supporting the goal of integrating sustainability in supply chains (CTA5) by not only ensuring transparency but also only sourcing and using plant-based ingredients produced through sustainable farming practices. You can learn more about their plant-based sustainable farming approach [here](#).



## Conclusion and next steps

Over the past 12 months, we believe that the Forum has made a good start in responding to the commitments laid out in the Call to Action. The work that we have undertaken on developing and scaling regenerative agriculture and on funding the transition stands out as a particular highlight. We would also like to commend the efforts of our partners, many of whom have been active for many years already in these key areas.

Nevertheless, there is much work to do by all stakeholders to progress the transition to a more sustainable, resilient food and agriculture system that is both climate-smart and nature-positive. As recent events have shown, there is an urgent need to develop holistic and systemic solutions to help fund farmers to make and sustain the transition. This seems to be one of the core challenges and, unless this can be resolved, the ultimate objective is in jeopardy. Adjacent to this, is the need to value and account for natural capital and for greater policy coherence and, more generally, a systemic approach to the transition in which all stakeholders are able to take responsibility and contribute. This will continue to inform our work on the Call to Action, in the year ahead and beyond, as we seek to offer constructive challenge to each other as well as building on the work we and our partners are undertaking for agri-food system transformation.





## Working together in partnership

The Founding Partners came together in 2008 to create a new, open and inclusive place in Europe where all stakeholders interested in contributing to a more sustainable agriculture system could come together to debate and share knowledge and expertise on how this could be achieved.

The Forum's Secretariat, under the guidance of the Forum Chairman and the Advisory Council, work with our founding, strategic and supporting partners to achieve the mission of the Forum to contribute to the development of a more sustainable food and agriculture system.

Our partners support the mission of the Forum to contribute to the development of a more sustainable food and agriculture system. The Founding and Strategic Partners also act as a sounding board and provide counsel on our thought leadership activities and positions, such as the Call to Action. The Partners also exchange knowledge and expertise on what works on the ground, as well as constructively challenging each other, as well as other stakeholders in their community, to help create a more sustainable food system.

Find out more about our current partners at [www.forumforag.com/about](http://www.forumforag.com/about)

### Founding partners



### Strategic partners



### Supporting partners



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# About the Forum for the Future of Agriculture

Established in 2008, the Forum for the Future of Agriculture (ForumforAg) is one of the leading international forums committed to help building a more resilient, sustainable, climate-smart and nature-positive food and agriculture system. To achieve this goal, the Forum announced a '*Call to Action*' in March 2023 which included a series of commitments to support the transformation of the agri-food system in Europe and beyond.

The Forum is supported by its Founding Partners – the European Landowners' Organization and Syngenta – and its Strategic Partners – The Nature Conservancy, LoginEKO, Cargill and the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) – as well as a range of other *partners* from across the agri-food sector and civil society.

The Forum's Annual Conference, which takes place in Brussels every spring, has established itself as one of the premier meeting places in Europe and globally for stakeholders meeting in open dialogue on the future of the food and agriculture system.

Find out more at [www.forumforag.com](http://www.forumforag.com)

