Plan to Accelerate
Regenerative Agriculture for Healthy Soil and Healthy Diets

Axis: 3. Transforming Agriculture and Food Systems
Key Objective: 8. Land restoration and sustainable agriculture
Solution: Regenerative Agriculture for Healthy Soil and Healthy Diets
Evidence Generation to Inform Policy, Practice and Finance to Scale Regenerative Agriculture for Diets and Nutrition From the Soil Up
Host initiative: Coalition of Action 4 Soil Health (CA4SH)
Participating Initiatives/Partners: RAFT, Global Alliance for the Future of Food, Action on Food Hub, Environmental Defense Fund, 4p1000 Initiative, Regen10, The Rockefeller Foundation, CIFOR-ICRAF, Netherlands Development Organisation (SNV), WBCSD, Young Professionals for Agricultural Development (YPARD), East Africa Farmers Federation (EAFF)
Scope: Global food systems with a focus on addressing gaps linking production and consumption — driving regional action, national strategies, and local implementation

- Geographic: Global
- Sectoral: Agriculture, Food, Land Use, linkages to Health and Nutrition, Climate, Biodiversity, Finance
- Other aspects: Livelihoods, Restoration of Degraded Lands, Food and Nutrition Security, Climate Resilience, Diverse Knowledge Systems, Equity and Inclusion

Overview:
This plan accelerates a global shift toward regenerative agriculture that nourishes both people and the planet, linking science, policy and finance to build healthy soil, improve diets, and transform food systems from the soil to the plate.

Strategic pillars
1) Measuring the impact of regenerative agriculture across the value chain

- Leverage and harmonize existing metrics and indicator frameworks to enable consistent monitoring of regenerative agriculture across diverse agroecosystems, from soil to human health, connecting outcomes and metrics for soil, agriculture, food production and human health, including metrics across the value chain and through consumption..
- Establish long-term engagement landscapes, called “lighthouses”, to serve as hubs for learning, monitoring and stakeholder collaboration.
- Implement an adaptive and flexible monitoring framework that can evolve to encourage sustained use, which provides a robust evidence base to inform policy, practice, and financing.

2) Scaling farmer-centered regenerative agricultural practices through markets and incentives

- Strengthen market demand for regenerative food, for example through leveraging public procurement for nutritious food in schools and hospitals.
- Design incentive mechanisms and financing models that reward regenerative outcomes including improved soil health, biodiversity, food quality and consumption patterns.

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- Engage young people to develop youth-led solutions to transform food systems for generations to come.
- Build farmer-to-farmer learning networks to scale farmer-led innovations.
- Social entrepreneurship to build capacity through educational programs and strengthen peer-to-peer learning
- Develop capacity of farmers, communities, extension systems, and value chain actors to support scaling and knowledge exchange.
- Build engagement models across the value chain from farmers, to buyers, retailers and processors to create procurement opportunities.

3) Unlock and redirect sources of finances for regen practices

- Increase sources of finances going to regenerative solutions.
- Increase public procurement investments.
- Enable blended financing mechanisms to accommodate risks in agriculture.

4) Integration into policy and public programs

- Bring evidence to bear to re-purpose agricultural subsidies and public investment to support regenerative transitions.
- Identify key entry points in national and subnational policy frameworks, such as Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) and Agricultural Sector Strategies, to embed regenerative agriculture, soil health, and healthy diets into broader development and climate agendas.
- Collaborate with on-going food system transformation agendas, including across the three Rio Conventions, UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, among others to amplify impact and policy coherence.
- Bring farmer and youth voices into the policy process through evidence-based engagement.

Levers Assessment: *(each lever is described in the guidance document)*

- **Risk-informed decision-making:** Low maturity
  - *Rationale: Risk assessment tools for regenerative agriculture (e.g., SAI Platform) and healthy soil (e.g., Land Degradation Surveillance Framework) exist but are not systematically integrated into national agriculture, climate, biodiversity and ecosystem restoration policies. Many land managers (including farmers and pastoralists) lack access to localized soil data, climate forecasts, or nutrition-sensitive planning tools. There is momentum in integrating risk into national strategies (e.g., NDCs, NAPs) but significant gaps remain in ensuring these inform day-to-day evidence-based decisions, finance, and investments.*
- **Technology shifts:** Medium maturity
  - *Rationale: Core regenerative practices (cover cropping, composting, rotational grazing) are proven, low-tech, and scalable), but enabling technologies such as digital soil mapping and remote sensing for soil carbon are unevenly distributed and context-dependent — affordability challenges, high upfront and transition costs, and lack of clear market and policy incentives constrain uptake. The Land Degradation Surveillance Framework (LDSF) developed by CIFOR-ICRAF shows how soil*

spectroscopy can be operationalized at scale to deliver fast, low-cost, and multi-parameter soil health data. Standardization and institutional capacity will be key to mainstreaming these technologies.

- **Knowledge & Capacity building:** Medium maturity
  - *Rationale: Farmer-led training and local knowledge offer strong foundations (as well as lighthouses and living labs concepts), but scaling requires meaningful participation, co-creation, and cross-regional knowledge sharing. Capacity gaps persist across policymakers, financial institutions, and locally communities to understand and prioritize links between soil health, diet, and nutrition. Youth and women farmers, in particular, remain underserved, although existing initiatives are helping fill those gaps (e.g., Regen10, CA4SH). These initiatives are developed shared outcomes and metrics, facilitating evidence-based policy and finance decision-making, and creating enabling platforms for knowledge exchange and collaboration.*
- **Inclusive decision-making governance & design:** Medium maturity
  - *Rationale: Possibly present at the local level but no global level governance, design, SOPs — formal mechanisms for participation and co-design of policy and solutions are not systematic. Decisions remain top-down, with insufficient participation of local and Indigenous peoples, land managers, smallholder farmers, youth, and women. Ensuring inclusive governance is essential for equity, legitimacy, and uptake, especially where customary land rights and local knowledge is key to driving transformative change.*
- **Standards & Taxonomies:** Low maturity
  - *Rationale: International harmonization and clarity of standards, metrics, and indicators for regenerative agriculture and healthy soil are still fragmented —ongoing efforts remain fragmented across regions, sectors, and stakeholders. However, growing momentum (e.g., EU Soil Monitoring Law) provides a strong foundation.*
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- **Supply:** Medium maturity
  - *Rationale: Public procurement of regeneratively grown food is a major financial lever for supporting the transition to regenerative agriculture. In the case of regenerative school meals, scale is achieved by aligning public procurement with sustainability criteria, creating strong demand signals for locally grown, regeneratively produced foods. Implement through inter-ministerial coordination, supportive policies (credit access, subsidy alignment), unified MRV systems, certification organisms, clear definition of regenerative agriculture,risk-sharing clauses and advance purchase agreements, diversified farmer finance, and impact-linked bonds. School meals protect nutrition and human capital while climate shocks threaten supply; regenerative sourcing advances SDGs, climate and biodiversity plans, stabilizes budgets, strengthens sovereign creditworthiness, reduces import dependence, and boosts rural incomes. Cost-benefit analyses show returns up to US$30 per dollar (range US$3–US$91), making this a strategic, resilient public investment and attracts financing. Examples: Guatemala channels 50% of school food budgets to local farmers; Ethiopia and Mali's home-grown pilots raised farmer earnings and credit access; Brazil mandates 45% sourcing from family farmers; and U.S. forward-purchase agreements expand farmer finance.*
- **Demand:** High maturity
  - *Rationale: Food systems are responsible for 30% of greenhouse gas emissions, 80% of deforestation, 70% of freshwater use, and the single greatest cause of terrestrial biodiversity loss and land degradation. Despite having sufficient food to feed 10 billion people with over 13% of food lost and 17% wasted each year, many cannot afford healthy diets. Additionally, only 30 crops provide 95% of human food energy*

needs. With over one-third of the Earth's surface being degraded, the ecosystems' ability to produce healthy and nutritious food is limited. A powerful lever, regenerative agriculture provides sustainable solutions to issues of soil degradation, climate, biodiversity, food security and nutrition, including precarious livelihoods and social inequalities, faced by farmers and food system workers. Understanding linkages across health, nutrition and environmental sustainability highlights opportunities for collaboration and generating knowledge to call for action to invest in regenerative agriculture, soil health, nature and people in transforming food systems. Furthermore, there are still knowledge gaps on the impact of agricultural management on critical ecosystem services, including nutrition. This plan aims to generate and leverage data and evidence, including scientific research and Indigenous Knowledge, ensuring the participation of youth and local communities to inform policy, practice and finance. Bringing this evidence to bear will derisk investments while providing the critical evidence to encourage countries and stakeholders to scale regenerative agricultural practices.

- **Public/private finance:** Medium maturity
  - *Rationale: An estimated USD $205 billion per year is needed from 2025-2030 to halve agri-food system emissions but current public funding is insufficient and unevenly distributed across the value chain. Transition costs remain disproportionately borne by farmers, and private investment is constrained by risks, lack of clear incentives, and fragmented financing mechanisms, despite estimates that agricultural innovation could unlock USD 1.2 trillion in returns over the next 10-20 years. Initiatives that aim to facilitate the co-designing of solutions between different stakeholders and to catalyze investment partnerships have a critical role to play.*[1]
- **Partnerships and collaboration:** Medium maturity
  - *Rationale: Multi-stakeholder engagement across sectors and discipline is key to driving this initiative forward. This plan to accelerate brings together several alliances and coalitions to deliver impact.*
  - *The Global Alliance for the Future of Food, is a strategic alliance of philanthropic foundations working together and with partners to transform food systems for people and the planet. Launched in 2023, the Regenerative Agroecological Food Systems Transition (RAFT) initiative is a collective effort to shift away from industrial food systems and fossil fuel dependencies. It does so by scaling inclusive, equitable, and ecological food systems by leveraging strategic investments, and cross-sector collaboration. Launch with over twenty Global Alliance members and philanthropic partners with the Cultivating Change report—a foundational resource detailing the investment and funding strategies needed to support a global transition to agroecology.*
  - *The Coalition of Action 4 Soil Health (CA4SH) documented the key role of multi-stakeholder engagement to scale healthy soil solutions, globally. With over 300 partners and growing, the Coalition has four main targets: 1) Increase the number of hectares under healthy soil solutions; 2) Integrate healthy soil into policy; 3) Increase financial support to farmers for investing in their soil by 5 to 10 fold; and 4) Fill key knowledge gaps around the impact of land management on soil health.*
  - *CIFOR-ICRAF is a centre of scientific excellence that harnesses the benefits of trees for people and the environment. Leveraging the world's largest repository of agroforestry and soil science and information, we develop knowledge practices, from farmers' fields to the global sphere, to ensure food security and environmental sustainability.*

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1 https://www.wbcsd.org/resources/enabling-private-sector-finance-at-scale-for-the-transition-to-sustainable-agriculture-and-food-systems/?submitted=true; https://www.foodandlandusecoalition.org/wpcontent/uploads/2024/03/FOLU-Future-Fit-paper-2_compressed.pdf

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- *Young Professionals for Agricultural Development (YPARD) aims to enable and empower young leaders around the world to shape and transform agri-food systems. With youth comprising over 16% of the global population, their involvement in agri-food systems is both significant and promising. YPARD, collaborates with young professionals in agri-food systems, alongside other youth organizations, educational institutions, local communities, and stakeholders. Together, we aim to promote intergenerational exchange and cooperation, leveraging youth energy, creativity, and fresh perspectives to sustainably transform our agri-food systems.*
- *The Eastern Africa Farmers Federation (EAFF) is a regional farmers' organization representing the collective interests of farmers across Eastern Africa. EAFF currently comprises 24 member organizations, including national farmers' organizations and cooperatives, representing an estimated 25 million smallholder farmers in 10 countries in the Eastern African region. EAFF aims to To represent, lobby, and advocate for Eastern African farmers' interests and build their capacities.*
- *The international "4 per 1000 Initiative: Soils for Food Security and Climate", launched at Paris CoP 21 in 2015, aims to show that agriculture, and in particular agricultural soils, can provide concrete solutions to the challenge of climate change while at the same time meeting the challenge of food security by implementing agroecological practices adapted to local conditions: agroforestry, regenerative agriculture, conservation agriculture, organic agriculture, landscape management, etc.*
- *Regen10 is a global, multistakeholder initiative supporting regenerative and agroecological approaches to advance an inclusive and equitable food system that centres farmers and landscape stewards. It is driving alignment across diverse food systems actors toward a holistic and inclusive set of outcomes at farm and landscape level. It is also building a co-created narrative on the why and how of these outcomes while bridging the global discourse with local, place-based action.*
- *Rockefeller Foundation is promoting the well-being of humanity throughout the world, remains unchanged since 1913. Today, that mission requires us to work with partners across sectors and political lines to deliver results for Americans and people across the world.*
- *Regenerative School Meals Initiative by Rockefeller Foundation. Regenerative agriculture — sometimes referred to as agroecology, organic, sustainable, or natural farming — restores soil health, biodiversity, and builds crop and land resilience to extreme weather. By opening markets through public procurement, we have an opportunity to connect regenerative agriculture with School Meal programs to create a resilient, nutrient-dense value chain — from soil to school — that delivers for farmers, ecosystems, and the next generation.*
- *World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD) launches a global framework for outcomes of regenerative agriculture. Leading private sector actors and partners are increasingly taking action and calling for a holistic approach to regenerative agriculture that encompasses environmental, social and economic outcomes. Their collective vision for regenerative agriculture includes 11 cross-sectoral outcomes, aligned with key sustainability frameworks, planetary boundaries and UN SDGs. This approach accelerates regenerative agriculture among stakeholders, strengthens corporate accountability, enhances supply chain resilience and enables financing that supports farming communities. WBCSD is working on outcomes and metrics related to sustainable and healthy diets. In the coming years the metrics for diets and regenerative agriculture will need to be connected to a single framework for business.*

- **Policy & regulatory:** Medium maturity
  - *Rationale: Land degradation continues to impact 3.2 billion people negatively. Food system transformation is urgently needed. Healthy soil and healthy diets are an integral part of the solution, as it is the foundation of regenerative food systems. There is an opportunity to integrate regenerative agriculture and healthy soil into exciting policies across agriculture, climate (NDCs), biodiversity (NBSAPs), and ecosystem restoration (Bonn Challenge, AFR100). Policies that incentivize farmers and pastoralists to invest in regenerative practices, including repurposing public*

incentives. There is considerable international momentum around soil health, such as the Australian National Soil Strategy, the European Soil Strategy for 2030, the United Kingdom Soil Health Inquiry, and the Nairobi Declaration from the Africa Fertilizer and Soil Health Summit. However, translating these decisions into enabling policy mechanisms is not a linear path as countries still face major challenges in implementation. There is an opportunity for multi-stakeholder action to build an equitable and transparent enabling environment at multiple levels for supporting, financing, scaling, and monitoring regenerative agriculture systems.

- **Public opinion:** Medium maturity
  - *Rationale: Awareness of regenerative agriculture and healthy soil is growing but narratives connecting soil to diets and nutrition are not mainstreamed though they now are on the agenda, including at the UN Food Systems Summit, UNCCD, UNFCCC, and UNCBD. The momentum continues to grow. Regenerative agriculture and soil health is increasingly framed as a solution not only for climate, land, and biodiversity, but also for nutrition and diets.*

Expected impact of this plan on the 2030 targets (if any): High

By 2028, this plan aims to:

1. Restored Land and Climate Action: Increase the number of ha under regenerative agriculture, restoring degraded land, directly supporting SDG 15 (Life on Land) and SDG 13 (Climate Action).
2. Health and Nutrition: Enhance access to healthy and nutritious food, in particular for vulnerable populations, by linking production and consumption systems contributing to SDG 2 (Zero Hunger) and SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-Being).
3. Evidence and Investments: De-risk and inform investments in regenerative agriculture through evidence generated through diverse knowledge systems (science, Indigenous knowledge), standards, and multi-stakeholder partnerships, contributing to the Global Stocktake by addressing key gaps in adaptation and resilience.
4. Policy Coherence: Influence policy and practice, integrating regenerative agriculture and soil health into exciting policies across agriculture, climate (NDCs, NAPs), biodiversity (NBSAPs), ecosystem restoration (Bonn Challenge, AFR100) and human health, accelerating systemic shifts and policy coherence.

This plan aims to accelerate delivery of 2030 targets by addressing key implementation blockers: insufficient and fragmented standards and evidence, limited and uneven finance, lack of enabling environments and policy coherence, capacity and knowledge gaps, weak multi-stakeholder governance.

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Output	Action Scope	Action	Type of action	Implementation Lever	Responsible	Time horizon	Stakeholder engagement[2]	Committed Stakeholders
Scaling regenerative agriculture and healthy soil practices	Regional-national strategies	Launch 5 large-scale programs to implement regenerative practices backed by soil health assessments and incentives	Exis…	Supply Demand Public/…		Nov…	Count… Comp… Invest… Techni… Regul… MDBs Youth … Multi-s…	
Lighthouse engagement landscapes	Regional across diverse agro-ecosystems	Establish 5 demonstration landscape as hubs for co-design, co-learning, training, and policy testing	Ne…	Inclusi… Knowle…		Jun…	Count… Cities … Techni… Youth … Comp… Regul… Multi-s…	
Global fund for regenerative agriculture and soil health	Global	Establish a global blended finance mechanism to de-risk investment; channel public, private, and philanthropic resources; and dedicated window for women, youth, and Indigenous-led initiatives	Ne…	Risk-in… Public/…		Nov…	Count… Comp… Invest… Cities … Techni… MDBs Regul… Youth … Multi-s…	
Harmonized metrics and indicators	Global-regional	Align existing metrics and indicators for soil health, regenerative agriculture and healthy and sustainable diets, ensuring comparability through FAIR principles and capturing social equity and gender/youth outcomes	Exis…	Standa… Knowle…		Jun…	Count… Comp… Techni… Regul… MDBs Youth … Multi-s…	
Monitoring and reporting framework	Global-national	Establish standardized monitoring and reporting mechanisms, aligned with GST cycles,	Ne…	Risk-in… Policy …		Nov…	Count… Comp… Techni… Regul… Youth … Multi-s…	

[2] Such as national governments, local and regional governments, regulators & public agencies, utilities & system providers, large companies, small and medium enterprises, investors and private finance institutions, MDBs, academic and technical institutions, youth, indigenous peoples and women-led groups, multi-stakeholders platform (non-exhaustive)

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		SDGs, and national commitments and embedding community-led monitoring support of certification organisms for regenerative agriculture					Cities …	
Capacity-building programs	Regional-national	Scale farmer-led training hubs, youth and women programs, digital soil tools for peer-to-peer learning and integrating diverse knowledge systems	Exis…	Knowle… Inclusi…		Nov…	Count… Comp… Invest… Techni… Regul… MDBs Youth … Multi-s…	
National soil information systems	National-regional-continental	Operationalize soil information systems linked to existing platforms (e.g., SoilHive), co-designed with community groups and ensuring data sovereignty for local communities	Exis…	Techno… Risk-in… Knowle…		Jun…	Count… Comp… Invest… Cities … Techni… MDBs Regul… Youth … Multi-s…	
Evidence integration into policy frameworks and policy coherence	National-regional-continental	Embed regenerative agriculture and healthy soil into NDCs, NAPs, NBSAPs, LDN targets, national food systems pathways and publish briefs	Exis…	Policy … Risk-in…		Nov…	Count… Invest… Cities … Techni… MDBs Regul… Youth … Multi-s…	
Soil knowledge platforms and data sharing	Global-regional	Integrate soil datasets into open-access repositories ensuring comparability through FAIR and CARE principles	Exis…	Knowle… Standa…		Nov…	Count… Comp… Invest… Cities … Techni… MDBs Regul… Youth … Multi-s…	
Inclusive transitions (equity and participation)	National-local	Establish targeted mechanisms to ensure meaningful participation of youth, Indigenous Peoples, and women in	Ne…	Inclusi… Partner…		Jun…	Count… Comp… Invest… Cities … Techni…	

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		decision-making, access to finance, and knowledge co-creation					MDBs Regul… Youth … Multi-s…	