Field to Market®

REGENERATIVE AGRICULTURE DEFINITION AND GUIDANCE

Released in June 2025, Field to Market's Regenerative Agriculture Guidance helps ensure a **shared understanding of regenerative agriculture** across the value chain and promotes collaboration by

- Equipping farmers, organizations and other stakeholders with practical tools to put regenerative agriculture into practice;
- Showcasing how the Fieldprint Platform can be used to measure and track regenerative outcomes;
- Highlighting areas of alignment with industry frameworks; and
- Providing a list of commonly used regenerative agriculture certification or verification programs.

KEY INSIGHTS:

- Regenerative agriculture is **outcome-based**, not prescriptive. Practices and management strategies should fit local conditions.
- A **combination of multiple practices often works best**, with greater potential for improved outcomes and farm resilience.
- **Regeneration takes time!** Some regenerative practices have more direct and immediate impacts on indicator calculations while others have more indirect long-term impacts that improve underlying conditions over time.
- Regenerative agriculture **supports the well-being of the people at the heart of the system**, addressing the livelihoods and economic realities of farmers and their communities.
- **Collaboration across the value chain,** from farmers to retailers, accelerates adoption and scales impact.

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VALUE CHAIN-APPROVED TERMINOLOGY

Through a consensus-based approach with input and approval of the entire agriculture value chain, Field to Market has established the following terminology for regenerative agriculture.

Definition of Regenerative Agriculture

Using a systems-based perspective, regenerative agriculture sequesters carbon in the soil and intentionally improves soil health, biodiversity, water quality, and air quality while ensuring the viability of farm production.

Principles of Regenerative Agriculture

The principles of a regenerative agriculture system are based on Indigenous ways of land management and are adaptive to local conditions and culture:

- Minimize disturbance
- Maintain living roots in soil
- Continuously covering bare soil with crop residue
- Maximize diversity with an emphasis on crops, soil microbes, and pollinators
- Integrate livestock where it is feasible

Field to Market's Regenerative Agriculture Framework serves as the foundation for the Regenerative Agriculture Guidance and is comprised of three pillars:

Environmental

Regenerative agriculture impacts five primary environmental categories: *biodiversity*, *climate*, *land*, *soil*, and *water*. Each category is aligned with specific Fieldprint Platform indicators to measure progress towards desired environmental outcomes.

Biodiversity

- *Biodiversity Indicator:* Tracks habitat potential and species diversity, helping assess how regenerative agriculture supports natural habitat on croplands.

Climate

- *GHG Emissions Indicator:* Estimates the GHG emissions associated with producing a given crop, highlighting how changes in management can reduce emissions.
- *Energy Use Indicator:* Measures the total energy required to produce a given crop, identifying opportunities to improve energy efficiency.
- *Soil Carbon Indicator:* Models carbon stock changes from consecutive years, showing where conditions may lead to increased soil carbon sequestration over time.

Land

- *Land Use Indicator:* Determines productivity by accounting for the planted area used to produce a crop, showing how regenerative agriculture can help maintain or increase yield without additional land.

Soil

- *Soil Conservation Indicator:* Measures soil lost to erosion from water and wind, identifying ways to improve soil structure and water holding capacity to reduce erosion.

Water

- *Irrigation Water Use Indicator:* Measures the amount of water used to achieve an incremental yield increase compared to non-irrigated conditions, helping improve water efficiency.
- *Water Quality Indicator:* Assesses the risk of nutrient loss to waterways and analyzes how yield can be maintained or increased without requiring additional land.

Economic

This section is under development, but currently outlines several innovative finance mechanisms that can be used by value chain actors to support farmers in addressing the agronomic and financial risk of scaling regenerative agriculture practices.

Social

Recognizing the importance of the social aspects of regenerative agriculture, Field to Market is developing guidance to help users understand and track social impacts, promote positive social outcomes, and build resiliency within the agricultural sector.