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# The Role of Regenerative Agriculture in Enhancing the Food and Drink Sector

The Food and Drink Federation

July 2024





# What is Regenerative Agriculture?

“Regenerative agriculture describes holistic farming systems that, among other benefits, improve water and air quality, enhance ecosystem biodiversity, produce nutrient-dense food, and store carbon to help mitigate the effects of climate change.

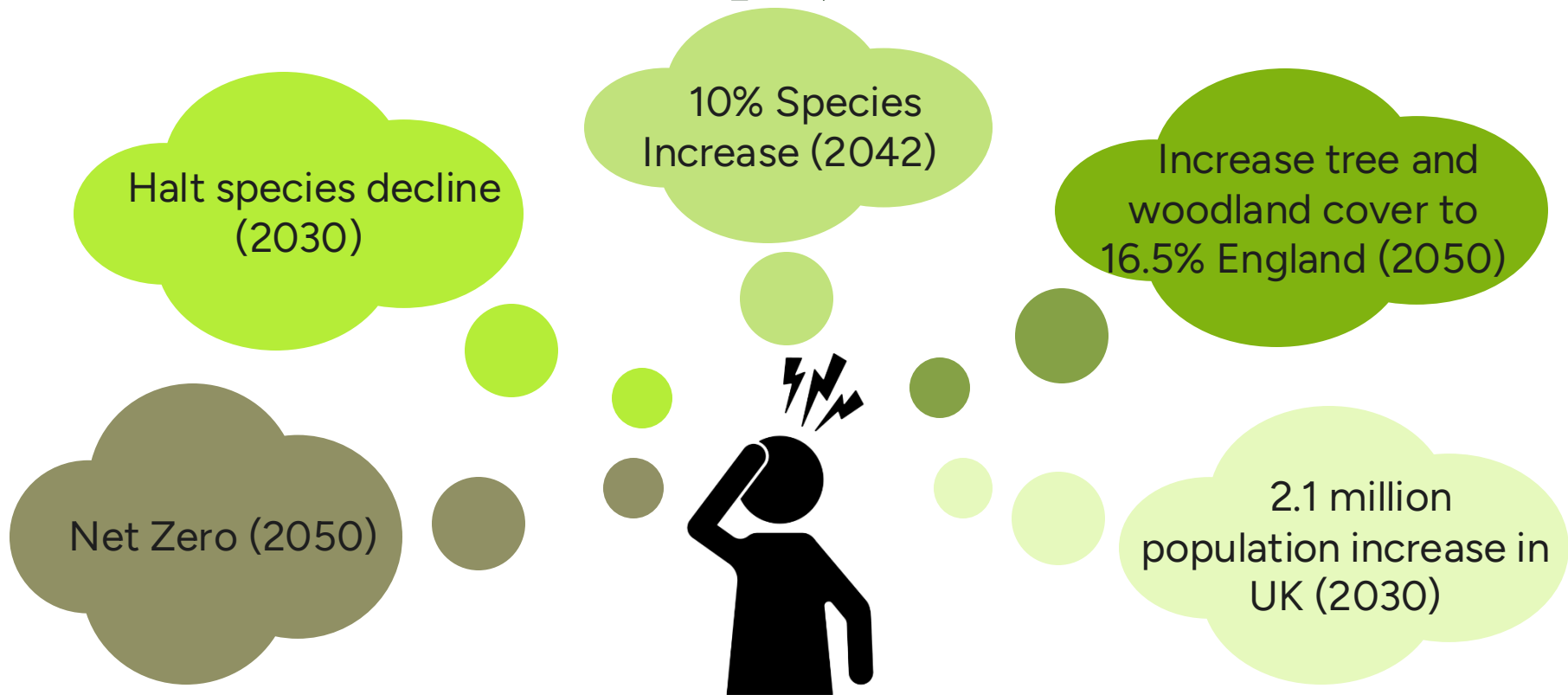
These farm systems are designed to work in harmony with nature, while also maintaining and improving economic viability.”

*Source: Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations*





# What role do we have to play?

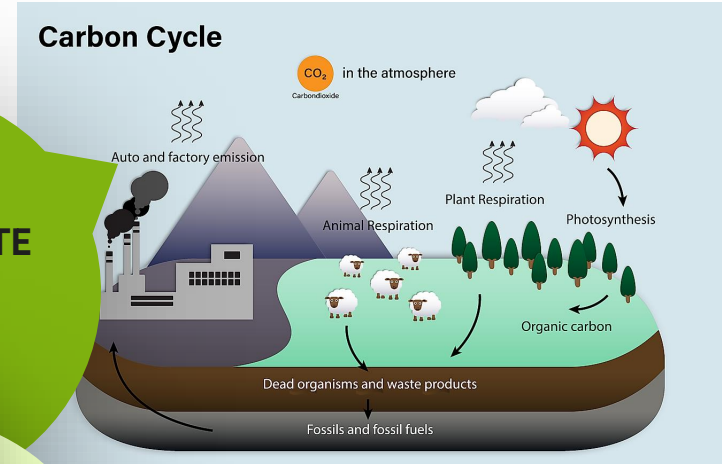
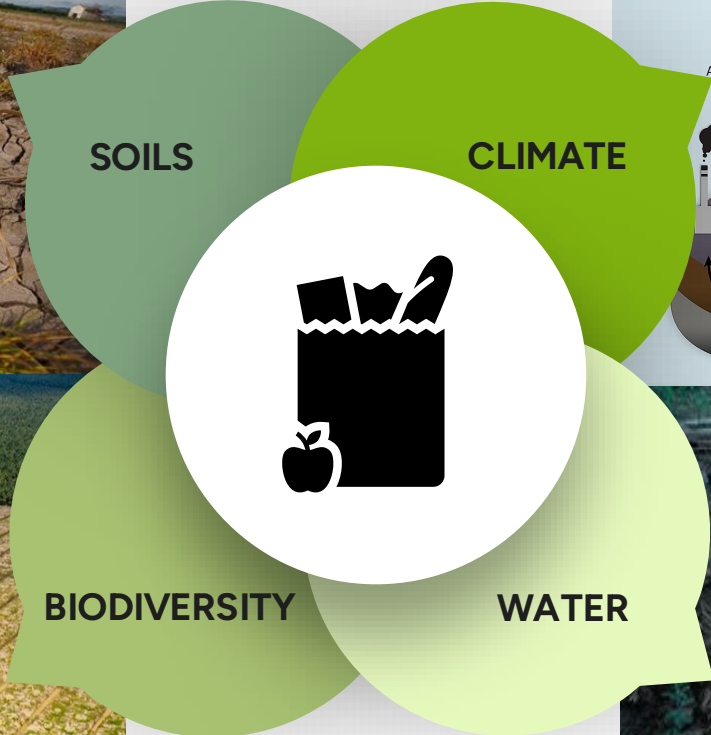




# Why the focus on agriculture?



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# Why do we need Regenerative Agriculture?

## Soils



- Soil Functions:
  - Biomass production;
  - Ecological habitats;
  - Atmospheric interactions (Carbon, Nitrogen, & Water cycles);
  - Cultural heritage, communities, geodiversity;
  - 12 million hectares of topsoil lost globally per year;
  - 50 to 60 years of harvests left;



# Why do we need Regenerative Agriculture?

## Biodiversity

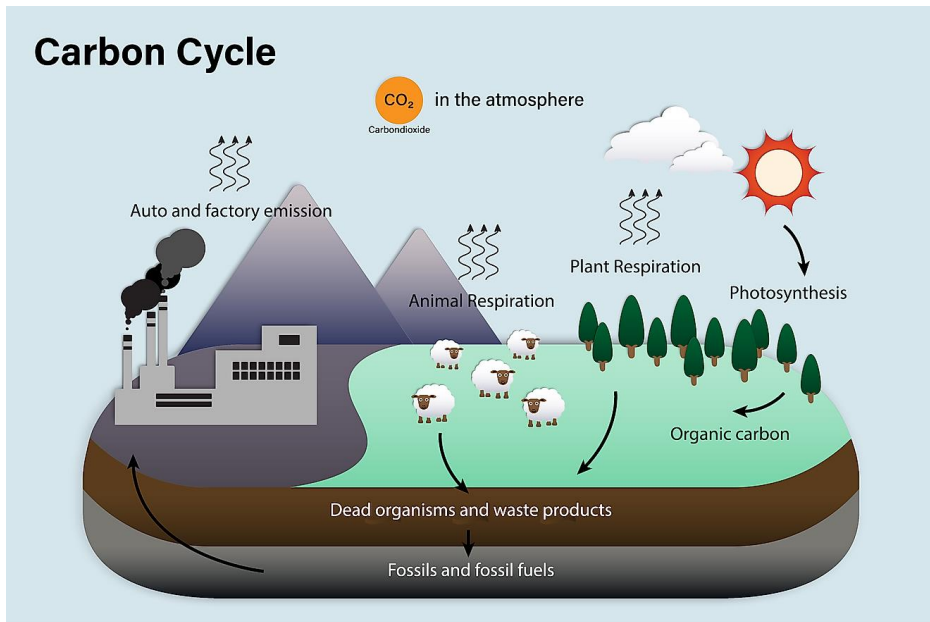


- The global food system is the primary driver of biodiversity loss;
- Contemporary agricultural the identified threat for 86% of 28,000 species at risk of extinction;
- Accounts for 73% of deforestation and conversion of natural habitats in tropical and subtropical countries;
- Forests are home to half of the worlds land-based plants and animals, two thirds of bird species;



# Why do we need Regenerative Agriculture?

## Climate



- Agri-food accounts for one third of global GHGs;
- Land use and agriculture accounts for two thirds of this;
- Net Zero – 50% reduction by 2050;
- UK Industry Target of 2040 (NFU);

**Source: World atlas**



# Why do we need Regenerative Agriculture?

## Water



- Agriculture accounts for 70% of freshwater use globally;
- 40% of UK waterbodies affected by pollution from agriculture;
- 25-year plan to improve UK air and water quality;





# What can the food and drink industry do to support the transition to regenerative practices?

Farmer support



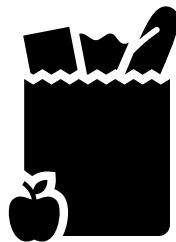
Banks & Finance Companies



Sharing of data



Retailers



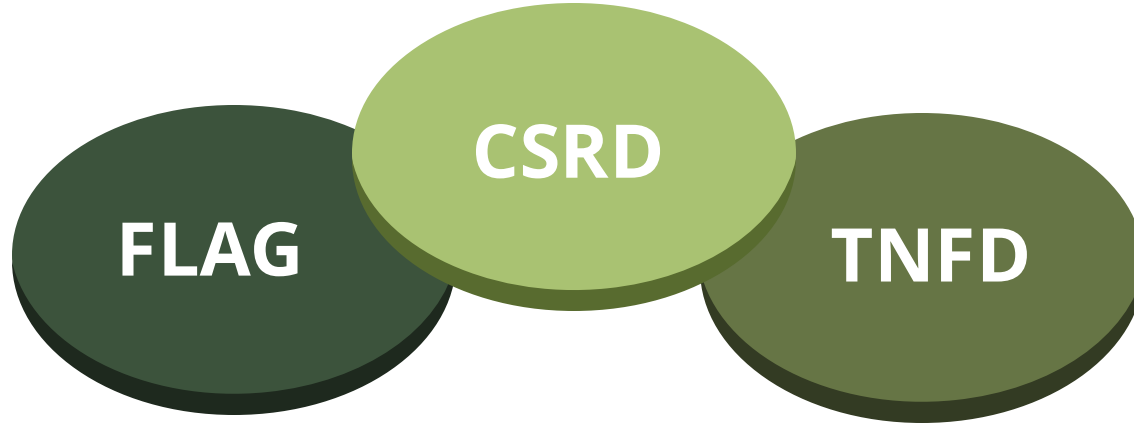


# Poll

Are you already implementing regenerative agricultural practices within your sourcing strategy? Yes / No

If No, are you likely to in the near future? Yes / Maybe / No

# The added corporate benefits





“75% of millennials are altering their buying habits with the environment in mind”

*Forbes, Regenerative Agriculture: The Next Trend in Food Retailing*

“Over one in three (36%) survey respondents view foods grown using regenerative agriculture as more nutritious than those grown without those practices”

*Food Insight, Consumer Perspectives on Regenerative Agriculture*



# Regenerative agriculture in the marketplace



M&S



GUINNESS®





# The Jordans Farm Partnership





# Regenerative Principles in Practice





# Regenerative Principles in Practice

## Plant species variety







# Improved rooting structures



*Source: Organic Research Centre*



# Provision of biodiversity habitats and feed sources

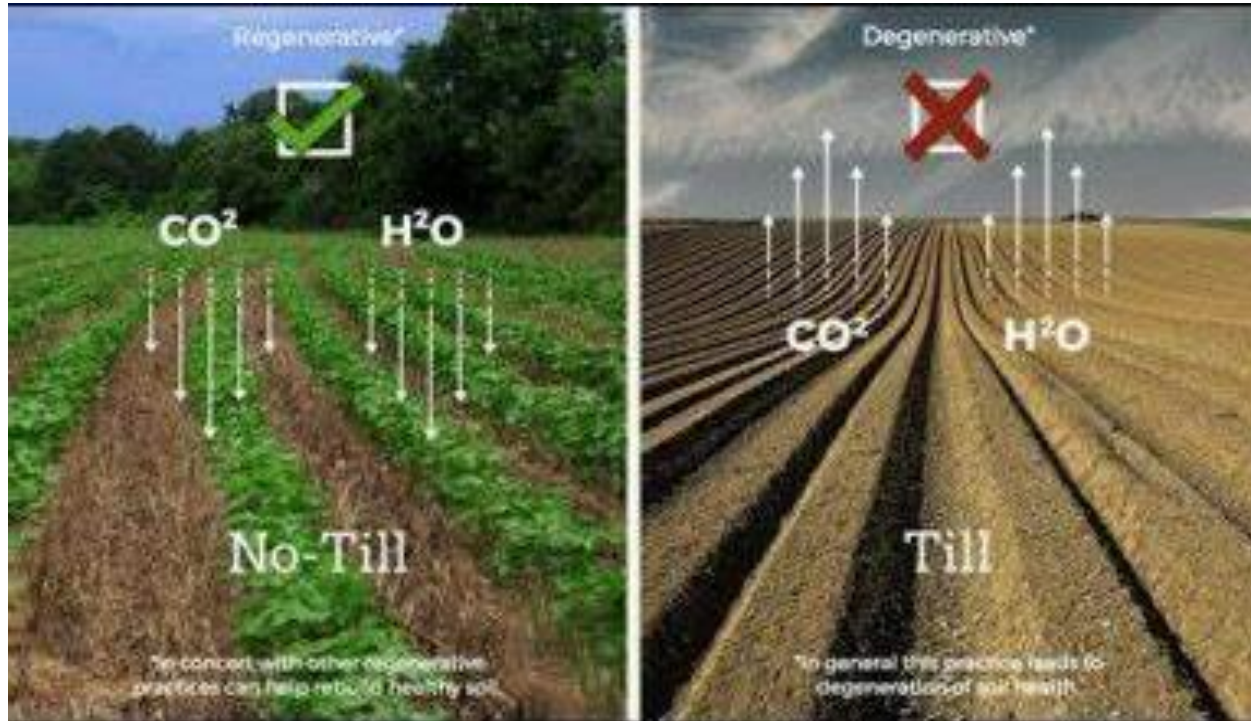
Plant Species	Total Inverts	<u>B'flies</u>	Macro moths	Beetles	Flies	Bugs & aphids
Perennial Ryegrass	43	1	0	0	16	21
Cocksfoot	139	14	38	4	24	39
Timothy	45	6	3	0	18	12
Meadow Fescue	44	3	5	1	13	20
Tall Fescue	17	0	7	0	1	0
Red Clover	85	10	15	19	13	11
<u>Birdsfoot</u> Trefoil	132	18	39	23	6	9
*Alsike Clover	18	1	0	10	5	2
Sweet Clover (common melilot)	27	3	3	11	5	2
Burnet	10	1	6	2	0	0
<u>Sheeps</u> Parsley	13	2	1	3	4	3
Chicory	15	0	3	3	5	3
Ribwort Plantain	70	5	21	22	3	7
Yarrow	119	3	22	18	19	22
<b>Total</b>	<b>777</b>					

Source: *Biological Records Centre*

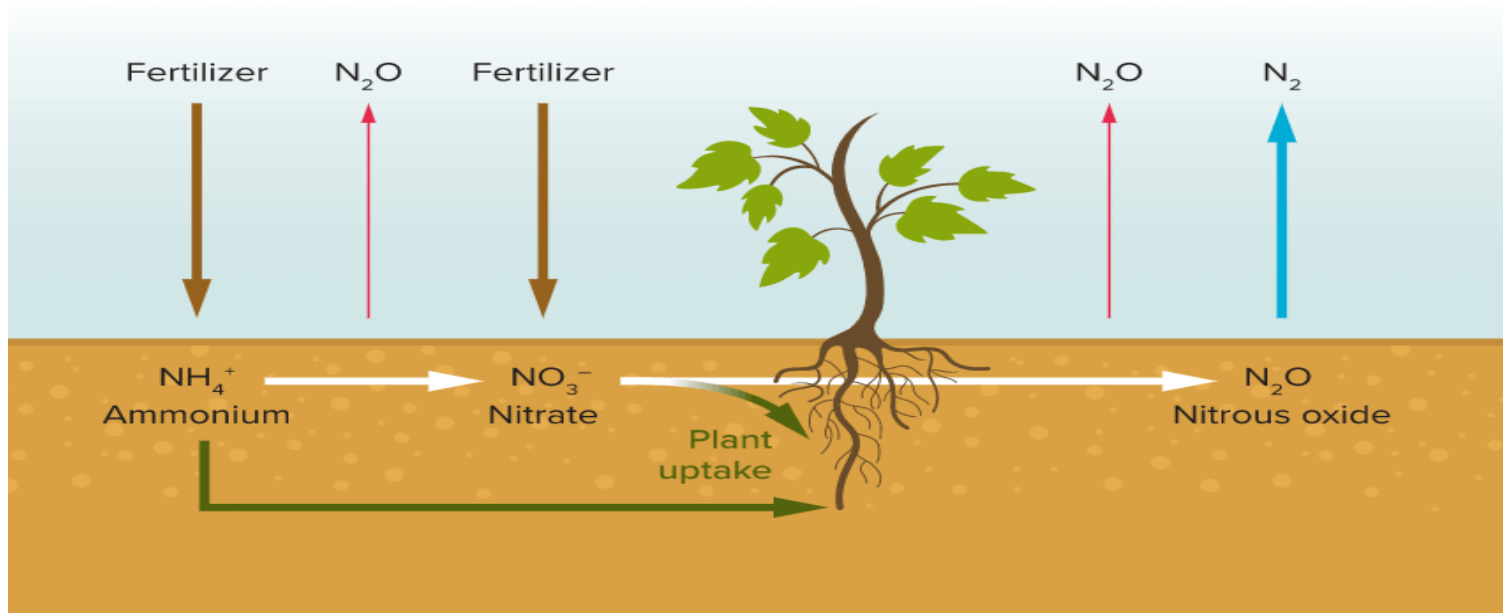
# Silvopasture



# Cultivation



# Nitrogen

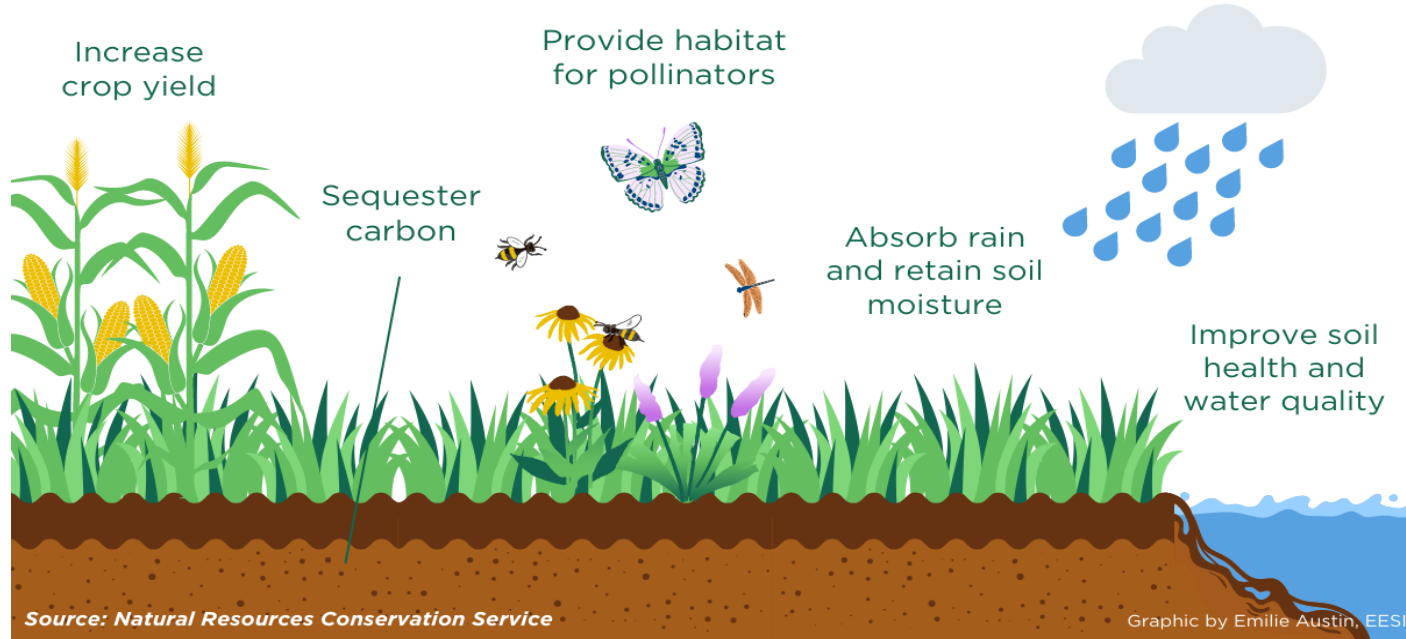


Source: California Agriculture 2017

# Cover crops



## Benefits of Cover Crops



# Wildflower strips / buffers



**Source: [cfeonline.org.uk](http://cfeonline.org.uk)**

# Silvoarable

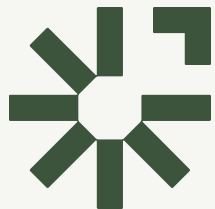


**Source: [learningfromnature.com.au](http://learningfromnature.com.au)**





Do you  
have any  
questions?



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