



Land and Water

Protecting our planet's natural resources, including land and water, enables food and agricultural production to remain resilient in the face of climate change and resource scarcity. Cargill is working across its global supply chains to drive systemic change across the industry to make agricultural production more sustainable and resilient.

Our approach: Land

Cargill takes a holistic approach to sustainable land use to create lasting and impactful change for the people and places that grow our world’s food.

A holistic approach means that we must respond to the macro challenges of food security, climate change, resource depletion, and biodiversity loss while also addressing the needs of individual farmers and the natural ecosystems that are home to farming communities.

We focus our efforts on helping farmers transition to more sustainable farming practices because improving their productivity and resiliency is key to scalable impact across our supply chains. We also serve as a farmer advocate and connector to our customers, industry groups, NGOs, and governments, and as a collaborator as we work to advance sustainable land use. For example, our **Land Use and Forest Sustainability Advisory Panel** [↗] helps accelerate progress toward our forest protection commitments across priority supply chains and provides formal input from key global partners and NGOs.

These partnerships span across:

Protect

We partner with farmers to protect forests and other important ecosystems.

Regenerate

We promote regenerative agriculture practices to mitigate climate change and protect our water resources in ways that are beneficial to farmers.

Restore

We restore degraded land and prioritize enhanced biodiversity and ecosystem services.

Innovate

We scale innovative solutions, often in alliances with key partners, to make agriculture more sustainable and productive.



Our work contributes to the following SDGs:



Protect

There are real and urgent threats facing the global food system. Numerous forces are currently straining the system, including geopolitical conflict, extreme weather, and swelling demand, among others. As a result, people are struggling to meet their basic needs around the globe, and an estimated 735 million people go to bed hungry every day.¹⁸

Leveraging the problem-solving power of agriculture to preserve critical ecosystems, Cargill is driving action-oriented, lasting solutions that protect landscapes that nourish people, animals, and the planet. Our efforts include assisting farmers in mitigating deforestation risks, increasing transparency through supply chain traceability, collaborating across industries, and advancing corporate and government policies.



Addressing forest loss with a collaborative roadmap

At COP27 in Sharm-el-Sheik, Egypt, Cargill joined 13 other leading companies in the agriculture sector in establishing a shared roadmap for reducing emissions from land-use change. The **Agriculture Sector Roadmap to 1.5°C**¹⁸ was facilitated through a process led by the Tropical Forest Alliance, hosted by the World Economic Forum, with support from the World Business Council for Sustainable Development. The roadmap aims to accelerate zero-deforestation action within the agricultural commodity sector by aligning with global climate goals and the need for food security, economic development, and farmer livelihoods. Specific areas of focus in the roadmap include supporting smallholder farmers in the palm oil sector, and protecting native forests, particularly in the soy sector. Cargill is now working to implement actions described in the roadmap to meet our targets.



Cargill's forest commitments and policy

In 2014, at the United Nations (UN) Climate Summit, Cargill endorsed The New York Declaration on Forests by announcing our goal to eliminate deforestation across our agricultural supply chain by 2030. Our **Policy on Forests**¹⁸ lays out our approach for achieving this target globally. We have been making progress and are accelerating our efforts. In November 2022, as a signatory of the Agriculture Sector Roadmap to 1.5°C, we committed to eliminating deforestation in our soy supply chain in the Amazon, Cerrado, and Gran Chaco biomes by 2025. This milestone is critical to achieving a deforestation- and conversion-free supply chain in South American soy by 2030. Our progress in our soy supply chain, as well as our other priority supply chains, such as cocoa and palm, can be viewed in the **Sustainable Supply Chains** section of this report.

¹⁸ [United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization \(FAO\)](#)

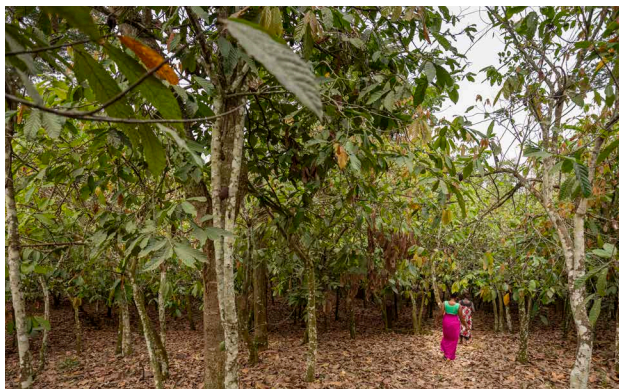


Putting farmers at the center

We continue to use the collective action of the Soft Commodities Forum (SCF) to drive sector transformation, including putting the farmer at the center of this effort through the SCF's Farmer First Clusters initiative. Launched in late 2022, Farmer First Clusters focus on the four states of Brazil's Matopiba region, employing a tailored mix of solutions in different landscapes to address deforestation and encourage alternative mechanisms for conservation. Cargill has committed more than \$1.3 million over three years to the initiative, as part of our far-reaching efforts to provide farmers with viable economic alternatives to land conversion. See [Sustainable Supply Chains: Soy](#) for more details on the project and the actions we are taking.

“To protect forests and other important ecosystems, while addressing food security, we must have a range of systemic solutions – from nature-based to digital technology – all predicated on the need to collaborate closely with farmers and our customers to grow our food in a more sustainable way.”

Leticia Kawanami
Sustainability Director - South America, Cargill Agricultural Supply Chain



Improving visibility in cocoa regions

Increasing supply chain visibility and traceability is critical in helping us better protect forests and monitor for potential deforestation, and we are making progress across our soy, palm, and cocoa supply chains. For example, in our cocoa supply chain, we are using Global Positioning System (GPS) polygon mapping as a way to gather data of a farm's perimeter accurately and rapidly, particularly in remote rural environments. This helps us understand where a farm operates and under what conditions, like proximity to a protected area or within a forest. However, using GPS to map the polygon farm boundaries of smallholder cocoa farmers is not an easy task. Farms can be spread out and they can change dynamically over time, and weather can have a negative influence on local road conditions and GPS signals.

Through Cargill's partnership with Farmforce and Koltiva, we're overcoming those hurdles and deepening our visibility into critical cocoa-producing regions, such as Côte d'Ivoire, Indonesia, and Cameroon. When coupled with other farm-level insights, GPS mapping can help us attain a comprehensive picture of farm-level needs and challenges. We can then offer bespoke support to improve productivity through targeted farm development plans, training, and other inputs. To date, we have mapped 72% of all farmers participating in the Cargill Cocoa Promise program. See [Sustainable Supply Chains: Cocoa & Chocolate](#) to learn more about the actions we are taking.



Protecting forests and people in Indonesia's palm oil regions

Many of the challenges in the palm oil supply chain, such as deforestation and human rights concerns, are not specific to a single supplier or to the palm oil sector alone. To tackle issues that are common within a region and across commodities, Cargill is collaborating with a variety of stakeholders through interventions at the landscape level. We're also working to increase traceability to minimize deforestation risks.

In Indonesia's Riau province, we are implementing a landscape program alongside seven other companies and the Consortium of Resource Experts (CORE), which is supported by two independent consulting companies, Daemeter and Proforest. With a focus on the Siak and Pelalawan districts, the program, which launched in 2018, aims to protect forests, improve smallholder livelihoods, reinforce labor and land rights, and pursue sustainable palm oil production through collaboration and supporting district government in implementing their policies and plans. Farmers from more than 28 villages participate in the program, representing more than 150,000 hectares of land. Within these districts, we have conducted traceability assessment to village level, which enables us to assess high risk villages, inform buyers about high risk mills, and intervene where action is needed across the landscape. See [Sustainable Supply Chains: Palm Oil](#) to learn more about progress and achievements from this year.

Brazil is home to some of South America’s most ecologically significant areas and plays a critical role in producing agricultural commodities like soy that feed approximately 10% of the global population.¹⁹ This role will only continue to expand with global population growth.

Cargill is committed to working with farmers and other partners to protect and restore farmland in Brazil while creating a more sustainable pathway for market development. We believe that’s possible by doing our best to connect growers, governments, and industry in a joint quest to optimize food production in Brazil.

We’re implementing pragmatic solutions that make conservation—above and beyond the law—more economically attractive. For example, through the **Land Innovation Fund for Sustainable Livelihoods (LIF)**²⁰, we are working alongside the agribusiness start-up ecosystem, the academic sector, and soy farmers on the development and implementation of innovative and economically viable options for farmers to protect undistributed lands.

We’re confident that agricultural production in Brazil can continue to flourish in a sustainable way, helping to conserve vital ecosystems while supporting farmer livelihoods and the production of food the world needs.

¹⁹ [Embrapa, Brazil’s government agency for agricultural research](#)

Spotlight

Creating a sustainable path forward in Brazil



“Farming and forests can and must coexist. Through farmer engagement, the right incentives, and policy drivers, we believe that is possible in Brazil and other places that deliver the food the world needs to thrive.”

Paulo Sousa

South America Group Lead,
Cargill Agricultural Supply Chain (CASC)

This work cuts across our focus areas contributing to:



Regenerate

Regenerative agriculture practices have the power to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, sequester carbon in the soil, improve water quality and use, increase productivity, and build up healthy soil for the next generation. Yet, every farm is unique and in a different place when it comes to the adoption of regenerative agriculture. That’s why we partner with farmers and support them in adopting practices that will work best for their specific location, crops, and business model. We provide farmers with a portfolio of options that deliver foundational economic and environmental benefits to their operations.

Our vision is to make regenerative agriculture commonplace across Cargill’s global supply chains, helping farmers produce food more sustainably while increasing their productivity and resiliency. We’re working to scale the adoption of regenerative agriculture by supporting farmers and ranchers throughout these transitions.



Regenerating 10 million acres in North America

In 2020, we announced a commitment to advance regenerative agriculture practices across 10 million acres of North American agricultural land by 2030. These practices include planting cover crops, reducing tillage, rotational grazing, and optimizing nutrient management.

Progress toward our commitment



10 million acres
Commitment
2030

Expanding farmer access to the growing environmental marketplace

We continue to make progress on scaling up regenerative agriculture through programs like Cargill RegenConnect®, which connects farmers to the growing environmental marketplace by paying them for improved soil health and positive environmental outcomes. In 2023, we 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 enrollment via mobile devices. We also announced the expansion of Cargill RegenConnect® 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 a prestigious 2023 Edison Award™.



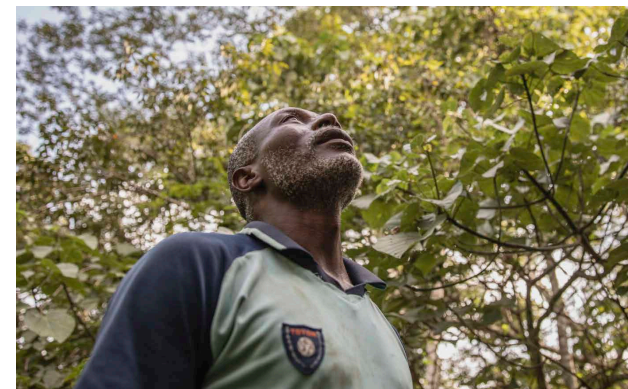
Investing in sustainability research in Brazil's Cerrado biome

Cargill is investing approximately \$1 million through the Regenera Cerrado project to sponsor a broad environmental study that includes more than 30 scientists researching the benefits of adopting regenerative agriculture in the Cerrado biome. The study partners include Embrapa, Brazil's government agency for agricultural research; Federal Institute of Goiás (IF Goiano); Federal University of Lavras (UFLA); leading think tank Instituto Forum do Futuro; operational execution by Institute BioSistêmico (IBS); and various universities. The three-year study launched in October 2022 and will generate scientific data on the benefits of regenerative agriculture that will help enable farmers, companies, and civil society institutions to make science-based decisions that will benefit both farmers and the environment. See [Sustainable Supply Chains: Soy](#) for more details.



Reducing canola emissions in Australia

In New South Wales, Australia, Cargill has partnered with Nutrien Ag Solutions on a pilot project focused on reducing emissions in the canola supply chain by capitalizing on market demands for sustainable commodities. The trial involves 14 growers, representing approximately 870 hectares of canola, who are exploring opportunities for short-term market premiums and long-term access solutions. Cargill and Nutrien are working with growers to complete an emissions baseline, followed by a customized plan using different sustainable products and implementing regenerative agriculture practices. The pilot is targeting a 20% to 25% reduction in emissions associated with nitrogen fertilizer.



Bringing agroforestry benefits to cocoa-growing regions in West Africa

Agroforestry practices that intentionally integrate trees and shrubs with pasture or cropland can help sequester carbon, and provide myriad other benefits, such as enhanced biodiversity and improved water quality. In West Africa's cocoa-growing regions, we're working with PUR on an agroforestry program that helps restore and preserve forests by funding the cost of seedlings and providing growers with on-the-ground expertise. Over the last year, across Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana, Cargill's collaboration with partners such as PUR has enabled the planting of more than 1.4 million multi-purpose trees on cocoa farms and involved more than 16,000 new farmers implementing cocoa-agroforestry.

“Regenerative agriculture can be applied across geography and farm size, which helps us scale farmer adoption in our global supply chains. Enabling this transition can help feed a growing population, improve farmer productivity, and have positive environmental outcomes – a triple win.”

Ashley McKeon
Director, Regenerative Agriculture, Cargill

Restore

In addition to protecting land against deforestation and creating more sustainable farms through regenerative agriculture, restoring degraded land and native ecosystems is important to maintain productive agricultural landscapes. Cargill invests in restoration initiatives that focus on key biomes like Brazil's Cerrado, which is also an important point of origin in the global soy supply chain.

Critically, these restoration efforts take place at a landscape scale, whereby we engage farming communities and a wide range of stakeholders, including local governments and NGOs, to design and implement programs that will succeed in the long term. These initiatives include working with growers to reintroduce native vegetation, recover water resources, and reforest altered areas.

Restoring key Brazilian biomes through farmer and partner collaboration

In 2022, Cargill committed to restore 100,000 hectares of altered land in Brazil over the course of five years through our Protect and Restore initiative. We currently have more than 30 projects underway, with a pathway to restore more than 14,000 hectares in key biomes. The initiatives are focused on protected lands (i.e., Legal Reserves and Permanent Preservation Areas) in private properties and on strengthening and structuring local restoration value chains within communities. The projects, such as those highlighted here, are tailored to meet both the needs of producers and environmental objectives.

Restoring degraded land in the Tijuco River watershed

We are working with producers in the Tijuco River watershed in the state of Minas Gerais to recover degraded pastures and Permanent Preservation Areas within their farms. The Tijuco River Basin has areas in a high state of degradation, but producers were hindered from carrying out interventions because of low investment capacity, difficulty accessing rural credit, and the lack of specific technical knowledge. Through the project, Cargill is providing 200 rural producers with qualified technical assistance, professional training to improve farm management, and technological solutions to improve the quality of pastures and restored areas. Ultimately, the initiative is expected to recover around 3,000 hectares of degraded pastures and nearly 1,500 hectares of protected land.

Expanding the market for sustainable cocoa in Mato Grosso

Cocoa trees, native to the Amazon, help maintain soil moisture, prevent erosion, and sequester carbon – making them particularly well suited for land-restoration efforts. To expand agroforestry practices in the Brazilian state of Mato Grosso, Cargill is providing \$6.4 million in financing to restore 1,000 hectares of degraded forest in this 3-year project. With this financing, our partner, Belterra, will help small- and medium-sized farmers implement agroforestry systems and plant nearly 1 million seedlings – including cocoa and other native trees. Cargill has agreed to purchase the cocoa produced by the participating farms, helping to provide greater economic security and improve farmer livelihoods.

Partnering with Ambev on ecological restoration

This year, Cargill and Ambev – the Brazilian division of beverage company Anheuser-Busch INBev – initiated a partnership that advances the implementation of ecological restoration of native vegetation and the conservation of natural resources in Brazil. A key focus of this work is on ensuring these areas have clean water, which is a critical resource and priority area for Ambev as a beverage company. Cargill and Ambev are collaborating and co-investing resources to restore areas that will help improve local water quality. Our goal is to restore 300 hectares over the next three years.

“This is a very strategic partnership for Ambev. We are joining efforts in Brazil to restore and conserve local watersheds, helping to advance water security in high-risk areas – an issue in which we have been working for more than a decade. By joining forces with Cargill, we are able to amplify our impact together.”

Caio Ramos
Head of Sustainability, Ambev

Innovate

Cargill invests in innovative solutions that advance sustainable land use across our global supply chains. These include technologies that optimize supply chain visibility through digital platforms that connect farmers and customers around the world, which help to promote sustainable agriculture practices, responsible sourcing, and mitigation of deforestation risks.

In addition to developing and deploying these platforms, our approach includes investing in smart ideas and emerging technologies from entrepreneurs and start-ups. We pilot and accelerate these solutions with the expectation that some may have the potential to become enterprise-wide platforms that can be scaled and tailored across multiple supply chains and geographies. In evaluating these innovations – and helping to bring them to market – we prioritize and optimize technologies that are practical and beneficial to farmers, customers, and other partners in the supply chain.



A sustainable tool to ensure market access

The Visión Sectorial del Gran Chaco Argentino (ViSeC) is a multistakeholder effort to protect native vegetation in the Chaco biome. To help Argentine farmers demonstrate that their soy does not come from recently deforested areas, the Land Innovation Fund (LIF) provided support and helped convene ViSeC; CIARA, Argentina's industry association for edible oils; the Peterson Control Union; and the Rosario Stock Exchange to design a new digital traceability platform, with contributions from multiple actors.

This georeferencing platform is currently entering a proof-of-concept phase, with plans to scale it for broad adoption by 2024. Crucially, this platform will provide traceability so that Argentine farmers can ensure their soy is compliant with both national legislation and new deforestation regulations in the European Union. It will keep their soy eligible for export to this key market and help strengthen the linkage between sustainable practices and economic incentives. See [Sustainable Supply Chains: Soy](#) for more details on the project and the actions we are taking.

Investing in digital traceability solutions

Through Cargill's new partnership with Satelligence, we are enhancing our monitoring capabilities to identify deforestation risks in our soy, palm oil, and cocoa supply chains. Satelligence will provide Cargill with near-real-time, satellite-powered deforestation risk monitoring. Satelligence's solutions use open-source, science-based methodologies, certified by Ernst & Young.



“In addition to our monitoring work with partners like Satelligence, we are also accelerating our efforts and investment with new programs that will protect and restore essential landscapes while providing meaningful pathways for farmers to advance their livelihoods.”

Matt Wood
Global Impact Data Analytics and Technology
Lead, Cargill



Protecting biodiversity

Biodiversity provides important services that support our global food system, such as pollination and pest control. Cargill focuses on interventions that aim to safeguard species threatened with extinction, as well as conserve natural environments that sustain a larger ecosystem of native animals and plants. We work with leading conservation organizations and other partners to support programs that span geographies and key supply chains, such as palm oil, beef, and aqua nutrition.

Restoring forest ecosystems in Malaysia

The Southern Central Forest Spine (SCFS) in peninsular Malaysia contains critical wildlife corridors that support populations of endangered species, such as the Asian elephant, Malayan tiger, and sun bear. However, a gradual decrease in the forest cover over several decades has disrupted the forest ecosystem, broken links between forest fragments, and increased conflicts between humans and wildlife, especially elephants.

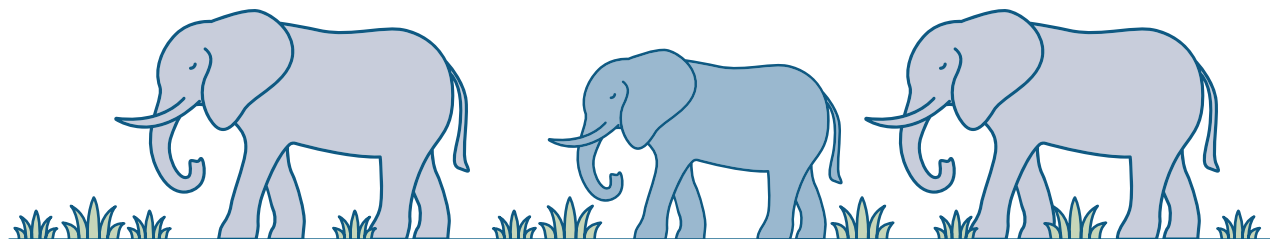
Given the role of SCFS as a sourcing region for products and commodities that are essential for many companies – such as palm oil – Cargill has worked with nonprofit Earthworm Foundation (EF) since 2021 to create a sustainable landscape model in the area. This model includes forest conservation initiatives as well as engagement with more than 200 farmers, providing awareness and training on sustainability issues and good agriculture practices such as nutrient optimization techniques that minimize fertilizer and waste run-off.



Photo credit: Earthworm Foundation

The landscape program also covers a pilot program on Human Elephant Co-existence (HEC). Supported by the Malaysian Palm Oil Board (MPOB) and funded by Malaysian Palm Oil Green Conservation Foundation (MPOGCF), the pilot aims to empower smallholders to adopt practices that encourage wildlife conservation, promote community safety, and reduce crop damages from wildlife visitations. EF is focused on encouraging a mindset shift amongst smallholders in the landscape towards accepting interactions with wildlife, such as the Asian elephant.

In its first year, the program covered an area of 1,500 hectares of agricultural land that borders forest areas inhabited by the elephants – with the expectation that coverage areas will be expanded in the future.



Bringing back declining wildlife populations in Canada

Beef farmers and ranchers in Canada play an important role in providing quality food, but few people know they also play an essential role in protecting the country's land, water, and wildlife. Through our BeefUp Sustainability™ initiative, in 2021, Cargill announced a \$4.5 million program with Ducks Unlimited Canada (DUC) and McDonald's Canada to support rancher-led work. By providing discounted seed and expert technical advice, participating farmers and ranchers are incentivized to restore previously cultivated land to grass and forage, thus creating more sustainable habitats for wildlife.

The program is supporting more than 200 farmers across three Canadian provinces: Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and Alberta. With more than 26,000 acres enrolled this year, the program is on track to meet a five-year, 125,000-acre target. With a focus on threatened biodiversity hotspots, the program is helping bring back declining populations of grassland birds as well as many species of waterfowl. Using estimated nest density (nests per acre) measurement, the program has supported the successful establishment of more than 100,000 duck, grassland, and shorebird nests.

Our approach: Water

Cargill takes a local, context-based approach to water stewardship that prioritizes action where it's needed most.

Clean water is essential for people and agriculture. Developing solutions that drive climate resiliency and adaptation relies on the need for smart water solutions that support soil health, preserve biodiversity, and protect watersheds across the food system.

The global water crisis is complex, impacting communities around the world in varying ways at varying times. With no one-size-fits-all solution to preserving and protecting this vital resource, Cargill has taken a local, context-based approach to water stewardship – an industry-leading strategy we implemented in 2020 that prioritizes action where it's needed most, based on the specific water challenges faced by the local community and our ability to drive change. What makes our approach unique and particularly critical for the food and agriculture sector is that it goes well beyond our own operational footprint, extending to the communities where we operate as well as where we can have the greatest impact: our agricultural supply chains.

As a proud signatory of the UN Global Compact's CEO Water Mandate and a member of the Water Resilience Coalition, we are working to share our key learnings and collaborate with other business leaders to develop critical solutions.

Our work contributes to the following SDGs:



Our commitment and progress

Our water goal and targets were set in fiscal year 2021 following a data-driven, risk-based approach **developed in close partnership**²⁰ with World Resources Institute (WRI). Our key progress this year against our global water ambition and targets follows:

Our global ambition: Enable a water positive impact across our operations, supply chains, and communities by 2030.²⁰

Targets	Progress
Operations: Implement water stewardship practices at all priority facilities by 2025	78%
Supply Chain: Enable the restoration of 600 billion liters of water in water-stressed regions by 2030	9.2 billion liters
Supply Chain: Enable the reduction of 5,000 metric tons of pollutants ²¹ in water-stressed regions by 2030	129 metric tons of Nitrogen Equivalents (N-eq)
Communities: Enable improved access to safe drinking water and sanitation, reaching 500,000 people in priority communities by 2030	More than 108,000 people

²⁰ We define a water positive impact as effectively improving watershed health by addressing the shared water challenges of availability, quality, and access to safe drinking water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH), using an approach that is informed by our footprint and the severity of local water challenges.

²¹ Our water quality target is expressed in metric tons of Nitrogen Equivalents (N-eq). This is equivalent to the wastewater pollutant load of 1.4 million people, or the total amount of fertilizer applied to 75,000 acres of corn (based on United States Department of Agriculture average data for corn).

Water in our operations

We view water as a shared resource. That's why we are committed to eliminating unsustainable water impact within our footprint and ensuring understanding, compliance, and reporting of water use, impact, and risk at all Cargill facilities. We are also working to provide access to safe drinking water, sanitation, and hygiene for employees and contractors at our facilities. Further, we require our 72 priority facilities²² to implement a set of sustainable water management and stewardship practices as part of our Water Stewardship Program. These priority facilities account for more than 80% of our total operational water footprint and were identified based on water stress exposure and water usage. Through the Water Stewardship program, Cargill has translated our approach to local water needs into guidance that empowers each priority facility to address water challenges and meet targets that are relevant for their specific situation.



Optimizing water use in Belgium

Through the Water Stewardship Program, three facilities near water-stressed areas of Belgium have developed and are testing innovative solutions to optimize and reduce their water use. In Antwerp, the team worked with third-party water consultant Cre@Aqua to study process enhancements and technologies to increase the reliability of its wastewater treatment plant, resulting in reductions to the content of suspended solids in treated wastewater as well as reduced energy consumption at the wastewater plant. In Ghent, the team piloted a new technology with CEVAP Technology BV to reduce the water volume needed to process difficult wastewater streams, such as from facilities that produce biodiesel from residue oil. And in Izegem, the team used continuous improvement tools to identify solutions for reducing water consumption and increasing onsite water reuse. The Izegem team organized pilot tests with third-party water consultant Pantarein.



Enhancing water efficiency and monitoring in Thailand

In Thailand, where Cargill operates across six provinces, climate change is worsening local water challenges. To help conserve this important resource, the regional facilities participating in the Water Stewardship Program have established a water management framework to support water sufficiency for business operations and to minimize environmental impact on the local community caused by the manufacturing process. As part of this approach, Cargill employs a strategy to enhance water efficiency by reducing water loss and increasing operational efficiency, reusing untreated water in non-operations activities, and recycling water treated by various technologies inside and outside its locations. This year, Cargill reduced an estimated 320,000 cubic meters of total freshwater withdrawal at these facilities, which equates to a 7% year-over-year reduction in freshwater withdrawal per ton of production. Of the total water usage at these facilities, 9.8% was recycled water.

²² Please note that the number of priority facilities may change over time due to acquisitions, divestitures, or major changes to our operations.

Water in our supply chains

On average, more than 70% of global fresh water use is associated with agriculture.²³ Through collective action and engaging with our supply chains, we believe agriculture can also be part of the solution to improve water quality and availability for future generations, while supporting farmer livelihoods and community and climate resilience. Engagement across our supply chains is also where we believe we can make the greatest impact.

Notably, our water restoration target of 600 billion liters is almost double the amount of all water used in Cargill's global operations annually. It is also equivalent to the annual use of a city of approximately 11 million people, such as Paris.²⁴

Within our supply chains, we work with farmers, ranchers, and other partners to develop and scale agricultural solutions, such as regenerative agriculture, that improve soil health, water resiliency, and quality; and provide other benefits like GHG emissions reduction. We complement these efforts with programs and partnerships that protect and restore grasslands and aquatic habitats in critical geographies of our supply chains and through projects that support water quality improvements and protect biodiversity.

Scaling water impact through regenerative agriculture

As detailed in the **Land** and **Climate** sections of this report, regenerative agriculture provides multiple benefits for farmers and the food system as a whole: from higher farm productivity to carbon sequestration. Another important benefit to incorporating regenerative agricultural practices is improved soil health and increased water-holding capacity in those soils. Holding more water in the soil means that overall soil moisture can increase, which helps during drought years as well as reduces the need to irrigate; this allows farmers to save on irrigation costs and makes them less dependent on scarce water resources. Increased water-holding capacity also means that the soil can absorb more water when it rains. As a result, nutrients captured in the root zone remain available to plants, instead of running off to nearby streams and rivers.

As part of our vision to make regenerative agriculture commonplace across our global supply chains, we've taken steps to measure our water impact from regenerative agriculture programs. These results are included in our supply chain water target progress, and it is our expectation that our efforts to scale up farmer adoption of regenerative agriculture practices will play an even greater role in meeting our global ambition to enable a water positive impact.

Collectively, this year, regenerative agriculture programs increased water availability in our supply chains by approximately 3.4 billion liters and improved water quality by reducing more than 60 metric tons of pollutants.²⁵

Conserving North America's wetlands

The U.S. has lost more than half of its original wetlands,²⁶ which help to safeguard water quality and filter and replenish underground water sources. With an additional 80,000 acres disappearing each year to development, climate change, and habitat loss,²⁶ Cargill and Ducks Unlimited (DU) have come together this year to kick off a three-year, \$1.5 million partnership to protect four critical landscapes: the Ogallala Aquifer across the U.S. Great Plains; Lake Ontario in New York, U.S.; the Upper Mississippi River in Iowa and Illinois, U.S.; and the Canadian Prairies. While diverse in nature and geography, these landscapes are interconnected in unique ways for DU and Cargill, such as bird migration routes and agricultural supply chains.

Through wetland and grassland restoration, conservation, and enhancement projects in these priority regions, our partnership aims to address water challenges related to availability and quality, increase sustainable agricultural production, and protect critical ecosystems. Combined with efforts from other project supporters, the collaboration will help 420 farmers through funding for improved agricultural practices, training in sustainable agriculture practices, and increased income. Additionally, nearly 73,000 acres of land will be monitored, restored, or protected - nearly 47,000 of which will be under sustainable management. Importantly, the partnership will also fund the restoration of more than 19 billion liters of water and a reduction of more than 500 metric tons of water pollutants.

²³ Based on the WRI report [Achieving Abundance: Understanding the Cost of a Sustainable Water Future](#).²⁷

²⁴ [Eau de Paris](#).²⁸

²⁵ Measured in metric tons of Nitrogen Equivalents (N-eq).

²⁶ [Ducks Unlimited](#).²⁹

Water in our communities

Globally, 2.2 billion people lack access to safe drinking water and 3.5 billion people lack access to sanitation.²⁷

Driven by our belief that clean and safe water is a right for all people, we are partnering with leading NGOs such as Global Water Challenge (GWC) and CARE to enable improved access to safe drinking water and sanitation for 500,000 people in priority communities by 2030.



Photo credit: World Vision

Enhancing water access with Cargill Currents

In 2021, Cargill and Global Water Challenge (GWC) launched Cargill Currents, a three-year, \$3 million initiative to provide access to safe drinking water, sanitation, and enhanced water security in priority regions through programs and solutions tailored to the local community. In addition to providing water access, the program builds community resilience, promotes economic development, supports farmer livelihoods, empowers women and youth, and addresses climate impacts.

Two years after launching Cargill Currents, the program is on track to reach 150,000 people in priority regions by the end of calendar year 2024. This is 30% of Cargill's 2030 global community water target.



Key highlights from our partnership with GWC this year include:

- **Brazil:** We launched an initiative focused on improving access to safe, clean drinking water in five Brazilian states, which is expected to benefit more than 20,000 people.
- **West Africa (Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana):** Nearly 48,000 people have benefited from improved access to safe drinking water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) and other project activities across 17 communities, 12 schools, and four healthcare facilities. More than half of these beneficiaries are women.
- **U.S.:** We announced the launch of six new partnerships with leading water stewardship organizations to improve watershed health and protection, promote sustainable water management, and build community and climate resilience.

“We celebrate our impactful partnership with Cargill and our collaborative approach as connectors to bring together partners to drive action at scale. Cargill is on an ambitious 2030 water stewardship journey, and we are proud to be working alongside them to deliver impact in communities around the world.”

Monica Ellis
CEO, GWC

²⁷ Based on the [United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals Report 2023](#)