

Agriculture and farming practices

Our businesses depend on agricultural systems for the majority of the raw materials and ingredients used in our products. Global supply chains need to move towards sustainable farming and crop production, and not just sustainable land use, in order to meet a growing population's need for food and clothing. We therefore recognise the need to support more sustainable farm management practices and address the most material biodiversity-related impacts, risks and opportunities.



A Jordans Farm Partnership farm in Hampshire, UK

We have a strong association with the UK agricultural sector. Globally, we are a significant purchaser of cotton, sugar beet, sugar cane, tea and cereals.

We expect our businesses to go further than legal compliance by continuously considering and implementing activities, voluntary commitments and internationally recognised management systems to

reduce their environmental and social impacts and risks.

This encompasses the responsible stewardship of our environment in line with the following requirements as a minimum:

- Group Environment Policy;
- Group Animal Health and Welfare Position Statement; and
- Group Supplier Code of Conduct.

Responsible agriculture, biodiversity and land use

Our businesses support a wide range of social and environmental interventions at the agricultural and farm level. These involve a number of farm management models, including certified organic production, standards to promote wildlife biodiversity, engagement with smallholder growers in developing markets, and adoption of farm management systems built on driving more sustainable farm productivity.

Many of the farm management standards of our businesses align with the core principles of Integrated Farm Management (IFM). They require the incorporation of a range of management practices across a number of designated criteria to improve overall supply chain efficiency and drive more sustainable farm productivity. Requirements typically include the safe handling of agrochemicals, improving soil structure and land management practices to sustain habitats for wildlife biodiversity.

While it is not possible for our businesses to intervene in every farm supply chain linked to our products, collectively we support many farm-focused intervention programmes. The objective of these is to shape management practices to promote systemic commercial, social and environmental resilience for the long term. Science, technology and data are essential to achieving this aim.

ABF Sugar promotes more sustainable farming practices across both sugar beet and sugar cane production, implementing regenerative agriculture approaches in some of its operations. It works with growers across its agricultural supply chains to support access to the necessary expertise for successful sugar cultivation, increasing the resilience of its value chain.

Some of our Grocery businesses source cereals, including wheat, oats and rye, from UK farmers. All the UK wheat sourced by Allied Mills is Red Tractor / TASCC (Trade Assurance Scheme for Combinable Crops) assured, while Jordans Cereals sources its grains through the Jordans Farm Partnership, which offers farmers a premium for their produce in exchange for their commitment to sustainable land management practices. Another Grocery business, Westmill, a leading supplier of food products to the Indian, Chinese and Thai foodservice sectors within the UK, aims to promote the standards of the Sustainable Rice Platform, a multi-stakeholder partnership set up by the United Nations Environment Programme, of which Westmill is a founding member. The UN Sustainable Rice Platform Standard, for example, requires Alternate Wet and Dry farm management techniques to reduce water use and GHG emissions in the rice sector.

Primark launched its Primark Cotton Project in 2013 which aims to equip smallholder farmers with essential knowledge and skills to drive the adoption of more sustainable agriculture practices. These include techniques to improve yields, reduce chemical inputs such as pesticides and fertilisers, and improve farmer incomes. As at the end of July 2024, 309,394 farmers have received training through the Primark Cotton Project.

Across the Group we support the responsible use of precision science and technology to maximise efficiency, reduce GHG emissions and limit biodiversity losses while maintaining commercially productive

agricultural outputs. For example, British Sugar is testing the use of autonomous robots to improve sugar beet cultivation. The Robotti robot is being deployed for planting and weeding crops, with the aim to help reduce reliance on chemical treatments, increase yields and enhance quality. British Sugar has also invested in a collaborative project with agriculture biotechnology company Tropic to explore how gene editing can be used to specifically target yellowing viruses.

To address commodity-specific environmental risks, for example in the supply chains for tea, soy and palm oil, several of our businesses use third-party certifications. Certifications from organisations such as the Rainforest Alliance, Fairtrade and the Roundtable for Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO) support responsible sourcing practices and help reduce potential impacts on biodiversity and forests.

Products and services for efficient farm management

Our businesses supply a range of products and services to the agricultural sector that facilitate efficient farm management and regenerative approaches, such as cover cropping to improve soil structure and water retention. AB Agri is the UK's largest supplier of animal feed and nutrition products to the dairy, poultry and pig sectors, providing a range of technology and consultancy services to promote efficiency.

Supporting customers in achieving more sustainable farm ecosystems has become an essential part of AB Agri's service offering. Its 'Farm Footprints' on-farm carbon footprint assessment service, launched in 2007, helps major international food producers to measure their supply chain emissions. Additionally, AB Agri's dairy consultancy business, Kite Consulting, provides practical guidance on emissions reduction and nutrient conservation to individual farm operations.

Deforestation

Some of our businesses source commodities that are linked with potential risks related to deforestation and biodiversity loss, such as palm oil. ABF has been a member of the RSPO since 2010. We are committed to increasing our use of sustainably sourced palm oil and for 100% of our palm-related ingredients to be sourced through one of the RSPO's four recognised supply chain models.

AB Agri is a division in which the risk of deforestation is particularly material, as the business uses palm oil and soy for its animal feed products. AB Agri has committed that all palm oil and soya usage will be certificated by 2025, supporting zero deforestation responsible sourcing schemes. In the reporting year, 100% of AB Agri's palm oil was RSPO certified using a combination of book and claim and mass balance. For the reporting year, 74% of the soya products AB Agri bought worldwide were certificated to schemes meeting the European Feed Manufacturers' Federation (FEFAC) benchmark for responsibly sourced soya.

AB Agri is an active member of the FEFAC Sustainability Committee (which introduced soya sourcing guidelines in 2015), the Agricultural Industries Confederation Sustainability Committee and the UK Roundtable on Sustainable Soy, all of whom are working on achieving supply chain solutions.

Primark uses man-made cellulosic fibres such as viscose, as well as natural raw materials such as cotton, to make its products. The business also purchases packaging, paper and solid wood, and published its policy for the responsible sourcing of wood and wood-derived fibres in 2022.

A number of our businesses will be impacted by the upcoming EU Deforestation Regulation (EUDR). Those in scope of this regulation are working to address the new requirements, including by working with external bodies, suppliers and customers.

Animal health and welfare

At ABF, we believe in the importance of maintaining appropriate animal health and welfare standards, and the Animal Health and Welfare Position Statement sets out how we expect our businesses to approach this issue.

Within the ABF Group, only AB Agri in Europe and DON in Australia have direct involvement with the farming of animals. Where the farming of animals is or may become relevant to any of our businesses, or when any of them conduct animal feed trials¹, we expect their approach to be governed by policies or procedures which are guided by internationally recognised standards such as the Five Domains Model of animal welfare assessment. Many of our businesses purchase ingredients derived from animals, such as eggs and dairy products, or materials derived from animals, such as leather and wool. We expect our businesses to develop their own appropriate animal health and welfare sourcing standards and requirements in relation to the ingredients and materials they source, and to require their suppliers and representatives to comply with those standards and requirements. For more information, find our Animal Health and Welfare Position Statement [here](#).

The small number of our businesses that purchase eggs are either already sourcing from cage-free hens or have a cage-free commitment in progress. In 2022 we made a commitment that by 2025, all our businesses that purchase eggs will be cage-free, except those in Brazil, which will be cage-free by 2028. Learn more about [our commitment on cage-free eggs](#).

1. Animal feed trials refers to nutritional evaluation trials with animals, based on what an animal would be expected to experience either in its natural environment or in a typical domestic or farmed situation.



Our commitment on cage-free eggs

The small number of our businesses that purchase eggs are either already sourcing cage-free eggs or have a cage-free commitment in progress. In 2022 we made a commitment that by the end of 2025, all our businesses that purchase eggs would be cage-free, except those in Brazil, which would be cage-free by 2028.

Since 2022, our businesses have made progress towards increasing the number of cage-free eggs they purchase, collectively reaching 26% globally in 2023/24. Regionally, by volume, 44% of the eggs purchased in Europe were cage-free, 23% in the Americas and 42% in Australia and New Zealand. Several of our businesses which purchase eggs, including ABF Sugar and Westmill Foods, purchased 100% cage-free eggs in the reporting year. Allied Bakeries and George Weston Foods have increased the volumes of cage-free eggs they buy and are on track to reach the 100% target by the end of 2025.

AB Mauri is a significant purchaser of eggs within the Group. In Europe, AB Mauri businesses have either reached 100% cage-free already or aim to do so by the end of 2025. In the Americas AB Mauri aims to reach 100% cage-free status by 2030. In Brazil, where the cage-free egg industry is less advanced, we are realistic that the transition to 100% cage-free will take significantly longer than initially expected. AB Mauri is now targeting a more realistic 50% cage-free egg purchasing in Brazil by 2028 and 100% by 2030. We are setting these goals but we recognise that unexpected events, such as the current avian flu epidemic, make meeting long-term targets challenging.

Agriculture and farming practices - Retail



Primark depends on effective agricultural practices and natural commodities to make its products.



A cotton farmer in the Primark Cotton Project in India

Responsible agriculture, biodiversity and land use

Primark depends on the agricultural sector for its raw materials, such as cotton, which is the main fibre used in Primark's products. Globally, cotton is the most widely grown non-food crop, providing income for more than 250 million people¹. Climate change and extreme weather events pose significant risks to this sector, threatening both the supply chain and the livelihoods of farmers.

Primark set up the Primark Cotton Project (formerly the Primark Sustainable Cotton Programme²) in India in 2013. The Primark Cotton Project trains farmers, predominantly smallholder farmers, to reduce water use and dependence on chemical fertilisers and pesticides. It also teaches skills such as seed selection, land preparation, sowing and harvesting.

Beyond training, the Primark Cotton Project is providing additional support to help farmers manage the consequences of climate change. Primark has supported farmers recovering from climate-related disasters, including assisting over 100 farmers in Gujarat affected by cyclone damage. This has included funding for construction of rainwater harvesting structures to provide access to fresh drinking water.

To explore ways to help build cotton farmers' resilience, Primark commissioned the International Institute for Environment and Development to assess the availability and uptake of insurance products for farmers that guard against risks such as the effects of extreme heat on production. The findings from this will be used to understand how Primark can better support potential new solutions to facilitate farmers' access to suitable insurance.

Soil health and biodiversity loss pose potentially significant challenges to the global food system. Conventional farming methods, which can depend on chemical inputs, may contribute to soil degradation, reduced agricultural productivity and a decline in biodiversity.

Primark has partnered with Biodiversify since 2021 to develop a robust Biodiversity Monitoring framework for the Primark Cotton Project. This is aligned with leading standards and guidelines, including the Science Based Targets for Nature (SBTN), the Task Force on Nature-related Financial Disclosures (TNFD) and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN). This framework will enable the business to identify and mitigate biodiversity-related risks within the supply chain.

Deforestation

Primark uses man-made cellulosic fibres derived from wood-pulp, such as viscose, to make its products. It also uses paper in its packaging and wood in some of its products. Primark has its own Wood and Wood-Derived Fibre Policy, which sets out its approach to sourcing these materials responsibly.

Primark will be impacted by the upcoming EU Deforestation Regulation (EUDR). Primark is working with external bodies and suppliers to address the new requirements.

In addition to this ongoing work, Primark has also been a partner of the not-for-profit environmental organisation, Canopy, since 2022. Primark continues to work alongside other fashion brands through the CanopyStyle initiative, which aims to transition fashion supply chains away from using ancient and endangered forest material and bring lower-impact fabric alternatives to customers. Primark is part of Canopy's Pack4Good initiative, which is working to ensure companies move away from forests to use low-impact paper packaging options and reduce dependency on virgin wood-derived packaging. All Primark suppliers are required to source only from man-made cellulosic fibre producers that are green rated by Canopy's Hot Button ranking.

Animal health and welfare

As Primark increases the use of more sustainably sourced materials across its product range, it continues to ensure that animal welfare is an integral part of its selection criteria.

Animal-derived materials such as leather, wool, cashmere, mohair and alpaca make up around 1% of the materials used in Primark products. The business is committed to responsibly sourcing any materials, even if used in small quantities. Primark supports the development of animal welfare standards and certifications, having an Animal-Derived Material Policy that requires suppliers to comply with industry standards.

Primark does not support the use of animal testing that is not required by law. Its own-brand cosmetics have been approved by the Leaping Bunny Program, an internationally recognised gold standard for cruelty-free products, since 2021.

¹ <https://www.worldwildlife.org/industries/cotton#:~:text=Donate-,Overview,in%20a%20variety%20of%20ways>.

² The Primark Sustainable Cotton Programme was renamed to the Primark Cotton Project in 2024. All other aspects of the programme remain the same, and we will continue to train cotton farmers in methods to reduce the environmental impact of the cotton they grow in the regions where the Primark Cotton Project operates.

The Primark Cotton Project



A cotton farmer in the Primark Cotton Project, India

Primark has committed that 100% of the cotton in its clothing will be either organic, recycled or from the Primark Cotton Project by 2027. In 2023/24, 57% of its cotton clothing units sold contained cotton that was organic, recycled or from the Primark Cotton Project.

The Primark Cotton Project equips smallholder farmers with essential knowledge and skills to drive the adoption of more sustainable agriculture practices. These include techniques to improve yields, reduce chemical inputs such as pesticides and fertilisers, and improve farmer incomes.

Primark started the Primark Cotton Project in India in collaboration with agronomic experts [CottonConnect](#) and the [Self-Employed Women's Association](#) (SEWA). The project subsequently expanded to Pakistan and Bangladesh where it also works with local partners, Rural Education and Economic Development Society (Reeds) in Pakistan and Thengamara Mohila Sabuj Sangha (TMSS) in Bangladesh. As at the end of July 2024, 309,394 farmers have received training through the Primark Cotton Project.

Traceability is a fundamental element of the Primark Cotton Project. Primark uses CottonConnect's system, TraceBale, to track and help segregate the cotton produced by farmers in the project as it flows through the supply chain, from farmers through to ginneries and spinners. Primark was also one of the first high street fashion retailers to partner with [Oritain](#), a specialist scientific verification firm which uses forensic science techniques to verify the origin of cotton samples.

Shifting to regenerative agriculture

Over recent years, Primark has been exploring how to evolve the Primark Cotton Project to include specific training for smallholder cotton farmers on more regenerative farming practices.

In 2024, around 3,000 farmers in India, Bangladesh and Pakistan completed their third and final year of a pilot initiative aligned to CottonConnect's [REEL Regenerative Code](#). The farmers are now trained in practices such as reducing soil tillage and promoting agroforestry.

If effectively implemented, such practices can be beneficial to both the environment and farmers. For example, reduced tillage helps to preserve the soil structure and therefore better supports plant growth. It may also help the soil to retain carbon, therefore potentially reducing emissions released into the atmosphere.

By the second year of the pilot, Primark found that 80% of farmers had implemented at least two soil health practices (such as crop rotation or intercropping), 55% at least two pest management practices (such as homemade bio-pesticides and use of traps) and 26% one water management practice (like furrow or micro irrigation). Many farmers also chose to plant trees around the cotton farms with the aim to improve biodiversity.

The data from year three is still being collected but Primark expects to see an increase in the uptake of regenerative practices across all areas among the farmers.

In 2023/24, Primark also:

- developed a roadmap to use more regenerative practices within its programme by 2030;
- began embedding the [REEL Regenerative Code](#) into its core training so that all new farmers in the cotton supply chain will now complete it as standard;
- engaged agronomic experts at [Harper Adams University](#) to conduct a review of its approach to make sure it draws on international best practice; and
- continued development of its Biodiversity Monitoring Framework so it can measure the impact of its training over time on biodiversity.

Strengthening resilience

The Primark Cotton Project promotes initiatives among farmers intended to help mitigate the effects of climate change on their crops while aiming to increase their income. For example, farmers have been supported to establish 'input centres'. These centres produce bio-based pesticides which enable a reduction in the use of chemical pesticides. Additionally, these centres provide an additional source of income to the farmers operating them.

Monitoring biodiversity in India



Monitoring for biodiversity on a Primark Cotton Project farm in India

In March 2024, Primark began a long-term biodiversity monitoring programme with its partners in Gujarat, India. The programme is focused on delivering a better understanding of how the biodiversity in Primark's cotton supply chain changes over time.

The programme was developed from learnings derived from a pilot biodiversity field survey carried out in partnership with Biodiversify and the Srushti Conservation Foundation on Primark Cotton Project farms in Gujarat. Primark's partners CottonConnect and SEWA were also involved in facilitating the surveys as well as providing more in-depth local context.

14 farms across five villages were selected for the programme based on their natural habitat profile and logistical considerations. Species monitored have included plants, invertebrates, reptiles, amphibians, birds and mammals, alongside soil sampling. A questionnaire with local farmers assessed the level of understanding and awareness of biodiversity among the farmers to add further context.

This pilot has enabled Primark to define a biodiversity monitoring methodology that can be applied over time and elsewhere.

Agriculture and farming practices - Grocery



The businesses within our Grocery segment are highly dependent upon agricultural commodities and supply chains to deliver their leading brands and ESG agenda.



A farmer growing Hom Mali rice for Westmill using the Sustainable Rice Platform Standard, Ubon Ratchathani, Thailand. Farmers are trained to test local soil conditions and produce optimised fertilizer mixes that improve efficiency

Responsible agriculture, biodiversity and land use

Our Grocery businesses have strong connections to the global farming sector, sourcing products from crops grown on farms, tea gardens, and smallholdings around the world. The diverse approaches and solutions they pursue reflect the structure of the supply chains and the nature of their operations in that context.

Our Grocery businesses are adapting to the evolving regulatory ESG landscape by expanding their approach to managing environmental and social risks, opportunities and impacts within their agricultural supply chains. In the past, they focused on a few targeted initiatives, but now they are taking a broader approach to

address a wider range of issues. Recognising the need for collaboration across the industry, they are working with civil society partners and other industry players to address supply chain issues.

To help address environmental risks such as deforestation and biodiversity loss, our Grocery businesses are focusing on specific projects within their supply chains, especially for those products particularly impacted by climate change. They are also prioritising water reduction and yield increase for commodities like rice. Climate change is particularly impactful for the gardens, farms and people that grow tea and herbs in the supply chains across the division, as extreme weather and natural disasters continue to affect the growth of healthy crops and the livelihoods of the communities that rely on them.

Several businesses leverage third-party certifications from organisations such as the Rainforest Alliance, Fairtrade, and the Roundtable for Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO). For example, these certifications are a minimum requirement for Twinings' suppliers of key raw materials such as tea and palm oil. Twinings is also actively involved in the International Cocoa Initiative, the World Cocoa Foundation, the Ethical Tea Partnership (ETP), the Sustainable Spices Initiative and the RSPO.

How our Grocery businesses approach a range of commodities is presented below.

Rice

Traditional rice-growing methods are water-intensive and release a significant amount of greenhouse gases into the atmosphere. Rice cultivation is estimated to be responsible for 8% of the world's methane emissions¹. Westmill Foods, a Grocery Group business in the UK and a leading supplier of food products to the Indian, Chinese and Thai foodservice sectors, is committed to promoting the standards of the Sustainable Rice Platform (SRP).

As a founding member of the SRP, a multi-stakeholder partnership set up by the United Nations Environment Programme, Westmill Foods supports initiatives to promote climate-smart agriculture, protect biodiversity, fight climate change and support smallholder farmers. By adopting SRP standards, the business is contributing to the production of high-quality rice while minimising environmental impact.

In Pakistan, where Westmill Foods sources basmati rice, the business is now in the sixth year of its collaborative project with Galaxy Rice, a key supplier in Pakistan, to equip them with the tools and techniques needed to train their farmers on sustainable farming methods in line with the SRP standard.

This programme aims to benefit both farmers and their communities and covers several topics such as water management, pesticide management and agribusiness techniques. In particular, it covers the use of water-saving technologies, including land laser levelling and alternate wetting and drying (AWD) techniques which also help to reduce GHG emissions.

As of May 2023, the project had included 1,000 farmers across 75km of land. Since the programme started in 2018, farmers within the programme have seen a 48% reduction in GHG emissions, a 31% reduction in water usage, a 13% increase in net yield and a 21% increase in net income compared to a set of non-SRP farmers.

Westmill Foods has also completed the first year of a similar project working with its supplier Olam Agri to train smallholder Thai Hom Mali rice farmers located in Ubon Ratchathani, Thailand, on the SRP standards. In 2023, this project supported 600 farmers, with plans to increase by 200 farmers per year for the next three years. During the first year the programme achieved a 13% reduction in GHG emissions, a 56% reduction in fertiliser usage and a 10% increase in net income for farmers.

Tea and spices

Twinings Ovaltine sources approximately 13,000 tonnes of tea and over 180 herbal raw materials, including spices. It does not own any tea or herb estates, farms or gardens and is selective about who it sources from, only purchasing tea from sources certified to internationally recognised standards, such as the Rainforest Alliance and Fairtrade International. It sources all its tea from seven regions – China, Kenya, India, Sri Lanka, Argentina, Indonesia and Japan.

Its tea supply chain includes approximately 120,000 workers and 110,000 farmers. Central to Twinings' responsible sourcing programme is the 'Sourced with Care' initiative, which aims to drive positive change through empowering women, supporting incomes and improving living standards within these communities. Through this initiative, Twinings recognises and supports the vital contributions of people and communities in tea and herb production. The business also collaborates with key partners in the tea sector, such as the Ethical Tea Partnership (ETP) and IDH - the Sustainable Trade Initiative.

Twinings publishes a sourcing map on its website, [Sourcing – Sourced With Care](#), detailing the tea gardens it buys from as well as the countries it sources its key herbs from, as part of its efforts to drive collaboration and greater transparency of reporting.

In 2024, it achieved 92% traceability by volume (back to farm or producer community) for its 17 key herbs² and spices and is working with suppliers to ensure full traceability of its key herbs by 2025.

Twinings, AB World Foods and Westmill are all members of the [Sustainable Spice Initiative](#) (SSI). AB World Foods and Westmill Foods are collectively working towards the goal of sourcing 25% of spices from SSI-certified sources in at least their top three product categories among spices, herbs and dehydrated vegetables by 2025, and 50% by 2030.

Westmill Foods is making progress towards these targets. During 2023/24, it sourced 47% of its top three spices (turmeric, chilli and cumin) with SSI certification. It also set a new target to reach SSI certification for 10% of the paprika it sources and in 2023/24 it has achieved 14%. AB World Foods is making similar progress towards these targets and in 2023/24 sourced 34% of its top three products (coriander, paprika and kibbled onions) from SSI-certified sources.

In addition, since 2019, AB World Foods has been working on Project SPICE with partner NGOs Mercy Corps (an international NGO working globally to help people affected by crisis, disaster, poverty and climate change) and GRAVIS (a community development organisation in Rajasthan, India) to support rural cumin and coriander farming communities in Rajasthan. The project has delivered agronomy and business skills training to over 1,000 farmers.

Cereals

Our Grocery businesses buy 5.9% of the UK milling wheat crop which is a core ingredient for Allied Mills, Allied Bakeries, Jordans Dorset Ryvita (JDR), Silver Spoon and Westmill Foods. JDR are also buyers of UK oats and rye.

Jordans Cereals, a premium cereal brand within our Grocery Group, sources all of its grains through the Jordans Farm Partnership, which covers its branded sales volume in the UK and France. This collaboration pays a premium to the farmers involved for their oats, wheat and barley in exchange for them managing at least 10% of their land for the benefit of wildlife. Since 1985, Jordans Cereals has worked with these farmers to promote biodiversity on their land.

Allied Mills ensures all the UK wheat it sources is Red Tractor /TASCC (Trade Assurance Scheme for Combinable Crops) assured. The business is piloting its Wheat Sustainability Supply Project, where select farmers adopt techniques that aim to improve soil health and support wildlife.

Animal health and welfare

Grocery Group

Grocery Group produces products primarily derived from ingredients of plant origin, except for a small quantity of dairy products, eggs and honey. It believes in the importance of high animal health and welfare standards within agricultural systems and supports the principles in ABF's Animal Welfare Position Statement.

Grocery Group businesses are working towards sourcing 100% cage-free eggs by 2025. While Westmill Foods and Silver Spoon have already achieved this, Allied Bakeries will transition its branded lines to 100% cage-free eggs from September 2024.

George Weston Foods

George Weston Foods purchases ingredients derived from animals, including eggs, dairy products, pork and other meat. The business believes in maintaining and improving high animal welfare and meeting relevant animal welfare standards, including the internationally recognised Five Domains. George Weston Foods follows groupwide ABF commitments to purchase 100% of cage-free eggs by 2025. The business has already started the transition process and is on track to meet this commitment. Tip Top in New Zealand has already achieved the goal.

George Weston Foods-owned piggeries in Australia have been sow stall-free since 2010, with directly owned and supplier owned piggeries in Australia certified by the Australian Pork Industry Quality Assurance (APIQ) programme. For pork sourced by George Weston Foods from overseas, suppliers in Europe and North America are expected to undertake continuous improvement in welfare standards.

1. *World Bank Group, World Bank Steps Up Efforts to Address Methane Emissions, December 2023*

2. *These herbs represent 85% of Twinings' herb volume and include: peppermint, camomile, ginger, hibiscus, orange, lemongrass, rosehip, lemon peel, spearmint, blackberry leaves, apple, liquorice, cinnamon, rooibos, turmeric, cardamom and vanilla.*

Case study - Twinings

Strengthening livelihoods of cardamom farmers in Guatemala



A cardamom farmer in Guatemala

Twinings sources the vast majority of its cardamom from Guatemala, where it has partnered with Mercy Corps, an international NGO working globally to help people affected by crisis, disaster, poverty and climate change. Together, they are working to improve the livelihoods of cardamom farmers, reducing the risk of deforestation, introducing crop diversification, improved pest management, and helping to improve biodiversity.

Cardamom needs shade to grow. By planting commercial trees such as the fast-growing native Madre de Cacao, Cedar, and Mahogany, the plants receive the shade they need, and farmers have an additional source of income over time. Farmers are also combining their crops with cinnamon, cloves and black pepper, helping them to diversify their outputs and improve their income.

A critical part of the initiative involves improving the cardamom drying process. Traditionally, farmers used wood-based fires, contributing to deforestation. The programme has facilitated a switch to propane gas dryers, which not only significantly reduces the need for wood but also improves the quality of the cardamom by providing a more consistent drying temperature. Through this partnership, three gas dryers have been built, capable of drying approximately 200 tonnes of cardamom and saving 225 metres of firewood annually, equivalent to preserving around 1.5 hectares of forest.

Twinings' funding enabled Mercy Corp to provide technical support for the implementation of agroforestry systems on 145 plots and the creation of 10 community plant nurseries, which cultivate the seedlings needed to support the agroforestry systems. Since 2020, when the programme started, 862 cardamom farmers have been trained in agroforestry techniques.

Case study - Twinings

Broadcasting radio training to smallholder tea farmers in Kenya



A smallholder farmer in Kenya

In Kenya, in 2023, Twinings partnered with the Farmer Voice Radio NGO to provide training for Kenyan smallholder tea farmers, with a particular focus on women. This initiative is funded by the UK Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office's Work and Opportunity for Women programme and aims to reach at least 50,000 farmers.

Smallholder farmers, especially women, often face significant barriers to accessing training due to work and family responsibilities. This programme has funded the development of a series of training programmes designed by and for women, which are broadcast, in local dialects, over the radio twice a week and then uploaded to YouTube, which means farmers can listen at a time that suits them and their schedule.

The series focuses on training farmers on more environmentally friendly farming practices, including land management techniques, such as reducing the amount of tillage, appropriate use of chemical pesticides and fertilisers, and switching to natural fertilisers where possible.

Case study - Jordans Farm

Jordans Farm Partnership continues to grow



A Jordans Farm Partnership farm in Hampshire, UK

The Jordans Farm Partnership is a collaboration with Wildlife Trust and LEAF (Linking Environment and Farming). It has now been in place for nine years.

All the farms in the Partnership are required to meet the LEAF Marque environmental sustainability standard, which includes independent audits and certification against a range of more sustainable farm management practices, including biodiversity habitat alignment according to the post-2020 [biodiversity framework](#)[\[link\]](#). Additionally, farmers work directly with dedicated farm advisers from their local Wildlife Trust in the UK to create and manage a range of specific habitats to sustain wildlife biodiversity on their farms, including native wildflowers and seed-bearing plants to provide food for insects and birds.

The Jordans Farm Partnership pays farmers a premium for their grain in exchange for them managing at least 10% of their land for the benefit of wildlife. The average proportion of land managed for the benefit of wildlife in 2022/23 was 26% across the 15,900 hectares of farmland managed under the Partnership.

In 2023, farmers growing oats for Jordans Cereals provided over 4,200 hectares for wildlife, including barn owls, brown hares, corn buntings and vital pollinating insects like bees. Wild places they have created or maintained include woodlands, ponds, hedgerows and waterways.

Project SPICE II: Empowering farmers and building climate resilience in India



Adolescent girls training at Mokheri Village Phalodi

Since 2019, AB World Foods has been working on Project SPICE with partner NGOs Mercy Corps and GRAVIS, a community development organisation in Rajasthan, India to support rural cumin and coriander farming communities in Rajasthan, India. The project delivered agronomy and business skills training to over 1,000 farmers and supported women within the community, raising awareness of the importance of girls' education.

Since January 2023, Project SPICE II has expanded its partnership with GRAVIS to further support the farming communities with the additional focus on building climate resilience. In its first year the project focused on improving water management practices and increasing farmer income.

Key achievements include:

- 75% increase in crop yield at rain-fed farms;
- 20% reduction in irrigation at farms with access to boreholes preventing further depletion of groundwater;
- all of the 1,000 farmers involved in phase 1 (Project SPICE) were retained and are involved in phase 2 (Project SPICE II) of the project;
- six community seeds have been established, providing farmers with a reliable supply of wilt-resistant seed varieties (these seeds are better suited for the shorter winter season, helping farmers adapt to rising temperatures, reducing costs and enhancing their resilience to climate change);
- 39 water storage tanks and water filters have been built to collect, store and filter rainwater to provide better access to drinking water;
- 38 irrigation dykes have been created on the edge of farms preventing runoff, conserving soil moisture and improving its fertility;
- 10 farmers are piloting Integrated Pesticide Management (IPM) practices with an AB World Foods supplier, to explore the possibility of selling their cumin to AB World Foods; and
- AB World Foods was highly commended in the 2024 Co-Op Treating People Fairly Awards.

Case study - Allied Mills

Allied Mills joint venture dedicated to more sustainable farming practices



A farm in south-east England that has participated in the Wheat Sustainability Supply Project

Allied Mills is in the final year of a Wheat Sustainability Supply Project with a number of its farmers. This involves the farmers adopting agricultural techniques that aim to improve soil quality and health and include land practices that support wildlife. These farmers receive a premium price in return.

The project was developed in partnership with Frontier Agriculture, a joint venture business within the ABF Group. The project stipulates crop rotation and minimal tillage to build up organic matter within the soil and increase fertility.

The business is working with a specialist consultancy to undertake satellite image analysis of the pilot programme to establish the impact of the management trials on soil carbon sequestration.

Allied Mills has agreed to extend the trial for another year with a view to continuing until the 2027/28 harvest. It is envisaged that 10,000 metric tonnes per year of wheat under the project protocol will be available for milling. Early established data suggests that yields have exceeded the regional averages measured by the UK Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs. Over four years, it has improved regional average yields by 12%.

Agriculture and farming practices - Sugar



ABF Sugar's businesses are deploying more sustainable farming practices across their estates, implementing regenerative agriculture approaches in some of their operations, and working to ensure growers in their agricultural supply chain have access to the necessary expertise for successful sugar cultivation, in order to increase resilience.



Cane fields on the Ubombo sugar estate in Eswatini

ABF Sugar attributes part of its business success to productive, high-yielding and robust agricultural practices at its own sugar estates and those of its third-party growers. The production of sugar beet and sugar cane faces potential challenges due to changing weather patterns, loss of biodiversity, land degradation and water scarcity. These conditions can lead to more volatile crop yields, further exacerbated by rising pest and plant disease pressures, as well as the reduced availability of active plant protection products due to stricter regulatory controls.

To gain deeper insights into our nature-related dependencies, impacts, opportunities and risks, ABF Sugar has partnered with Resilience Limited, a sustainability intelligence company, to comprehensively assess its material nature-related dependencies, impacts, opportunities and risks. The insights gained from this project will inform ABF Sugar's strategic direction over the next five years, enabling the division to make more informed decisions on future agricultural strategies that integrate both nature dependencies and climate impacts.

In 2024, ABF Sugar businesses faced significant challenges due to extreme weather events, including heatwaves, droughts and floods, which had a substantial impact on its agricultural and farming practices.

These experiences have driven the development of innovative approaches to strengthen resilience and create new opportunities for the future.

Responsible agriculture, biodiversity and land use

ABF Sugar is an active member of the Sustainable Agricultural Initiative (SAI), the global food and drink industry platform that aims to develop more sustainable agriculture solutions. It is also a founding member of SAI's Regenerative Agriculture Platform.

Growers for Azucarera in Spain and British Sugar in the UK, as well as our own estates in Africa, are using the SAI Platform Farm Sustainability Assessment (FSA) 3.0 tool to drive continuous improvement on-farm. The tool assesses operations and benchmarks them against standards already being used in the field, such as RedTractor Crops and Sugar Beet Standards in the UK or SUSFARMS ([susfarms - SASRI](#)) in South Africa.

ABF Sugar has achieved FSA Silver Level equivalence across all its businesses' own operations, and grower operations in Nchalo and Dwangwa in Malawi. One key co-operative, Phata in Malawi, which supplies the Nchalo estate, was awarded by the SAI Platform the FSA Growing a Better Planet Award in 2023. In South Africa, Illovo Sugar South Africa has achieved Proterra Certification for selected farms, Sezela Sugar Mill and Sezela downstream products factories. Also, Azucarera is currently updating its farm sustainability assessments in alignment with the FSA 3.0 tool. This process of assessing, improving and validating on-farm sustainability using SAI's FSA tools will guide farmers towards more sustainable practices and enable ABF Sugar to measure and demonstrate its collective progress toward its GHG emissions reduction targets.

ABF Sugar businesses co-fund research institutions with our growers, including:

- the Research Association for Sugar Beet Crop Improvement (AIMCRA) (Spain);
- the South African Sugarcane Research Institute (SASRI); and
- the British Beet Research Organisation (BBRO).

These engagements aim to enhance crop resilience and productivity while reducing negative environmental impacts. This is achieved by partnering with SASRI in South Africa to trial new sugar cane varieties and working with the BBRO in the UK to test different approaches to monitoring emissions from sugar beet cultivation. The collaboration with AIMCRA in Spain strengthens the links between individual farmers and field technicians to provide better guidance on crop management.

ABF Sugar is also promoting biodiversity and ecosystem health across its operations and supply chains through various initiatives. These include the creation of beetle banks and refuge areas, the use of cover crops, and tree planting at all sites. In Zambia, at its Nakambala site, a key initiative is focused on ecosystem and biodiversity restoration through tree planting, with the goal of planting 1,000 trees monthly, starting from July 2024, with an aim to combat climate change and promote biodiversity. In addition, Illovo Sugar Malawi established protected areas on both the Dwangwa and Nchalo estates, which are home to diverse plant and animal life.

Fighting VirusYellows disease in the field at British Sugar and Azucarera



One of our Azucarera employees examining a sugar beet with a farmer on his farm, Spain

In recent years, the sugar beet industry has been significantly impacted by VirusYellows disease, which is transmitted by aphids and reduces the yield and sugar content of each plant. Research into integrated pest management and more sustainable solutions for controlling VirusYellows has become a priority for ABF Sugar's UK and Spanish businesses.

British Sugar is investigating innovative grower practices that can affect the aphids' ability to detect sugar beet crops. This includes exploring the use of natural soil colourings or inter-row crops to camouflage the sugar beets, as well as using odours like onion, peppermint, and garlic to distract the aphids from identifying the crop.

British Sugar has also invested in a collaborative project with agriculture biotechnology company Tropic to explore how gene editing (GE) can be used to specifically target the yellowing viruses.

This collaboration makes use of Tropic's GE induced Gene Silencing (GEiGS®) technology platform to make minimal and precise gene edits in sugar beet enabling the crop to resist infection. The initial stages of the project, including mapping the sugar beet genome sequence and computational designs for gene editing, have been completed.

The project is expected to continue through to 2026, and it may take at least another five years before the VirusYellow-resistant sugar beet seed is commercially available. In 2024, the project received a boost with a £660,000 grant from Innovate UK's Farming Futures R&D Fund, jointly awarded to British Sugar, Tropic and The John Innes Centre. The British Beet Research Organisation (BBRO) is also supporting the project.

In Spain, research projects have focused on understanding the disease's low polarisation and providing specific support for fighting VirusYellows. This is done in coordination with national and regional governments, focusing on recommendations for improved seed varieties and coordinating trials on other diseases. AIMCRA remains the technical expert for Azucarera's beet crop management, providing timely information on the plant's evolution through their online and offline channels.

Case study - Our sugar businesses in Africa

South Africa and growers fostering soil health outcomes



Sugar cane growers at Illovo Sugar South Africa's 2024 growers' day in Sezela, South Africa

Our sugar businesses in Africa are building stronger relationships with the communities surrounding their factories through a mutually beneficial community bean planting programme. This initiative, in place at the Sezela, Glenroy, Esperanza and Isonti farms, allows approximately 150 community members to use the fields between sugar cane harvests to plant their own beans. This provides a food source to sustain their families and helps them earn an income.

The programme runs when the sugar cane harvest is complete, typically between February and May. Beans are a cover crop that benefits the land by increasing soil organic matter, controlling pests and fixing nitrogen. Sugar cane and soybeans complement each other in pest control, disrupting pest cycles and reducing overall pest populations by decreasing the concentration of host plants. The businesses benefit from the leftover soybean residue, which decomposes and acts as a natural fertiliser for the next sugar cane season. Intercropping with soybeans also improves crop development.

Case study - Our sugar businesses in Africa

Pilot to improve soil biodiversity



Soil samples being collected at the Nakambala estate, Zambia

In collaboration with experts from the University of Cape Town, our sugar businesses in Africa are conducting research on soil biodiversity in order to improve sugar cane yields in its southern African supply chains and establish more sustainable agricultural practices.

The project aims to educate the local teams about the benefits of increased soil biodiversity and to develop protocols for on-farm teams to monitor soil biodiversity over time as more regenerative practices are adopted and modified according to local conditions.

Soil biodiversity plays a crucial role in agroecosystems, particularly in litter decomposition, nutrient cycling, and pest regulation. Initially, the project will employ a range of tools, including taxonomic, molecular, ecological and stable isotope tools, to assess soil biodiversity in sugar cane fields subject to different management, such as conventional versus regenerative agriculture, and green cane harvesting.

The primary objective is to evaluate soil fauna density and diversity in fields under various management, ultimately contributing to the development of a rapid assessment for long-term monitoring of soil biological quality in sugar cane fields. Additionally, the project aims to study soil food webs under different sugar cane management practices, shedding light on the diversity of decomposers and predator-prey relationships in soil under sugar cane cultivation and guiding efforts to promote natural predators.

Overall, this project will contribute to deepening ABF Sugar's understanding of the composition and resilience of soil biodiversity in sugar cane cropping systems while providing insights into how to improve soil biological quality. By 2023/24, the had project collected nearly 1,000 samples from sugar cane fields at Nakambala in Zambia, Nchalo in Malawi and Ubombo in Eswatini.

Looking ahead, our sugar businesses in Africa will adopt the protocols recommended by this research to measure soil health in their fields with the aim of encouraging and accelerating the adoption of these practices across their operations.

Case study - British Sugar

Trialling more sustainable agriculture with robots



Robotti sugar beet seed planting demonstration in Cambridgeshire, UK

British Sugar is testing the use of autonomous robots to improve sugar beet cultivation. In partnership with Sentry and Autonomous Agri Solutions, the Robotti robot is being deployed for planting and weeding crops. The goal is to reduce reliance on chemical treatments, increase yield and enhance quality. The overall objective of the trial is to evaluate the feasibility and cost-effectiveness of robotic farming for sugar beet production.

Key improvements being tested through the trial this year includes:

- precise fertiliser placement to reduce nitrogen use;
- optimised row spacing for easier harvesting; and
- wider headlands for better robot and harvester operation.

Case study - British Sugar

Innovation with British Sugar's in-house growing team



A sugar beet grower with one of the agricultural account managers from British Sugar

Working with over 150 industry partners, British Sugar's in-house growing team supports knowledge exchange among its agriculture colleagues, evaluates growing techniques, supports contractors, and provides a platform to encourage farmers to grow sugar beet in the region.

The team is focused on three areas that could help to reduce Scope 1 GHG emissions on-farm: protecting soils, improving biodiversity and reducing artificial inputs. With several field-scale experiments underway to monitor impacts, the overall aim is to measure emissions from the growth and production of sugar beet to establish a baseline to further reduce emissions. The team is celebrating its 15th year of operation and continues to make progress.

Case study - Zambia Sugar

Zambia Sugar's new farming system producing exceptional yields



Harvesting of sugar cane at the Nakambala Estate in Zambia

The Nakambala sugar cane estate in Zambia has implemented a new farming system to improve resource stewardship, yields and agricultural profitability.

Following early analysis of the data gathered, results show that the system has led to significant improvements in yield, with an increase of 20 tonnes per hectare compared to the previous growing cycle.

The key components of the system include an innovative replanting schedule, minimal tillage, upgraded drainage and irrigation systems to develop more efficient water distribution to the crops, precise application of fertilizers, the use of green-cover manures, and GPS-assisted vehicles for efficient soil preservation and fuel savings. This reduction in replanting leads to substantial cost savings, while the minimised soil disturbance helps protect natural resources such as soil and water.

Our sugar businesses in Africa will be extending the programme to more hectares at Nakambala in Zambia and piloting in Ubombo in Eswatini, Nchalo and Dwangwa in Malawi.

Case study - Azucarera

Precision agriculture in Azucarera



One of our Azucarera employees demonstrating the Visor crop monitoring platform to a sugar beet farmer on his farm, Spain

Since 2018, Azucarera has been implementing precision agriculture projects, focusing on expanding its control over the entire process of the crop production. This includes extensive data collection on soil conditions, setting potential yields and using advanced simulators.

The current focus of this approach is to improve the continuous digital measurement of polarisation, nitrogen and other testing devices to monitor the condition of the sugar beets in the field and during their delivery to the factory. By employing an artificial intelligence system that integrates satellite data with information on climate, soil, sugar beet samples and more, Azucarera is able to assess the crop's health, nitrogen and irrigation requirements, and sucrose levels. This enables the identification of the optimal time for harvesting.

Agriculture and farming practices - Ingredients



Our Ingredients businesses create products from a range of agricultural commodities and support the adoption of responsible farming practices.



A harvested rice field, California, United States

Biodiversity and land use

Our Ingredients businesses source agricultural commodities that are linked with potential risks related to deforestation and biodiversity loss, such as palm oil. AB Mauri and ABFI's purchasing practices are informed by awareness of these risks, and both will be directly and indirectly impacted by the EU Deforestation Regulation (EUDR).

AB Mauri

AB Mauri has identified palm oil as a high-risk commodity due to its association with deforestation. As part of the Group membership of the Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO), the business is committed to sourcing palm oil that is physically certified to RSPO standards. Where possible, AB Mauri will purchase RSPO-certified palm oil from local markets. However, in instances where certified palm oil is unavailable, the company will acquire RSPO credits. These credits are purchased through AB Mauri's sourcing partner AchieveNow which maintains direct relationships with RSPO-certified producers globally and conducts due

diligence. More than 95% of the palm oil purchased by AB Mauri UK and Ireland business is physically certified to RSPO standards.

AB Mauri's UK and Ireland business operates to the standards set out in its responsible soya sourcing policy and is a signatory to the UK Soy Manifesto, an industry commitment to ensuring all soy entering the UK is deforestation and conversion-free by 2025. The policy includes commitments to sourcing deforestation and conversion-free, non-GMO, fully traceable soy, requiring direct suppliers to adopt and cascade the same commitment, and integrating these requirements into supplier contracts. More than 99% of the business's soy products were sourced from a soy crop grown in Canada for the calendar year 2023, which can be traced and verified as deforestation and conversion-free. The business submits a progress report to the [UK Soy Manifesto](#) detailing progress against the Manifesto commitments on an annual basis.

AB Mauri is aligning its operations with the objectives of the upcoming EUDR to minimise the risk of contributing to deforestation or forest degradation. The business is currently mapping its products and inputs against the regulation's requirements and is engaging with suppliers to address them.

ABFI

Some of ABFI's businesses utilise Sphera Risk, an online risk management procurement tool to evaluate the environmental risk associated with the materials they purchase and the locations they source from in their supply chains.

ABFI is aware of the risk of deforestation associated with global palm oil supply chains. To mitigate this risk, AB Enzymes considers alternative materials to eliminate its dependency on palm, while ABITEC, which sources a limited quantity of palm-related raw materials, has been using RSPO-certified palm oil ingredients under a mass balance supply chain model since 2016.

Another ABFI business, PGP International, procures rice and rice flour from California and the southern states of the US. The business participates in the USA Rice Millers' Association, an organisation advocating for environmental responsibility, biodiversity preservation, and conservation efforts as a part of the USA Rice Group.

Agriculture and farming practices - Agriculture



For AB Agri, more sustainable ecosystems relate to both individual farms and whole food systems, where land use is optimised for food production, carbon storage, energy generation and human use.



One of our AB Agri consultants with a client farmer on their farm in Somerset, UK

Over the last century, improvements in farming practices and technology have enabled food to be produced at scale, and more economically than ever before. In addition, as the world has globalised, agricultural supply chains have become increasingly complex.

Some inputs that are essential to agriculture are known to contribute to climate change. For example, CO₂ is crucial for plant growth and nitrogen is a key component of livestock feed proteins. In many cases, effectively managing and improving the efficiency of these inputs not only reduces CO₂ emissions per unit of food, such as per kilo of chicken or litre of milk, but also helps keep food affordable by optimising the use of nutrients.

AB Agri evaluates the livestock farming ecosystem to identify commercial opportunities and develop solutions to address these challenges. Science and research are the cornerstones of AB Agri's approach. Underpinned by its community of scientists, all commercial solutions developed by its businesses are rigorously assessed to demonstrate their safety and efficacy. Its businesses invest in researching scientific advancements, by collaborating with universities and utilising its own laboratories and trial sites. These include the AB Neo Centre of Excellence trial farm in Spain and the Amur laboratory at the University of York Science Park.

External standards and the regulatory landscape are also vital considerations for AB Agri. While the agriculture industry upholds high standards, regulatory frameworks may not always keep pace with scientific developments. This creates opportunities in more adaptable markets to responsibly implement new technologies.

Industry groups and bodies play an essential role in agriculture. They help to improve food production standards and represent agricultural businesses in interactions with audiences such as consumers and governments.

AB Agri businesses and employees actively participate in industry organisations at national and international levels. These include representation on the Agriculture Industries Confederation (AIC), the European Feed Manufacturers' Federation (FEFAC), the International Feed Industry Federation (IFIF), Global Feed LCA Institute (GFLI), the Global Dairy Platform (GDP) and the British Equestrian Trade Association (BETA), to name just a few.

Responsible agriculture, biodiversity and land use

For AB Agri, more sustainable ecosystems relate to both individual farms and whole food systems, where land use is optimised for food production, carbon storage, energy generation and human use. Nutrients are retained within the agri-food ecosystem and distributed to wherever they can have the greatest value.

There are three interconnected principles which underpin AB Agri's priorities for action in this area:

- conserving and elevating nutrients within its farming ecosystems, reducing biogenic emissions and pollution;
- reducing use of fossil fuel (thermogenic emissions) and fossil-derived products (plastics); and
- removing potential links to deforestation from the supply chain.

Traceability and risks

In managing its supply chain, AB Agri prioritises the safety and quality of its products while respecting the lives and livelihoods of those within the supply chain and the environment. AB Agri recognises the unique contribution that each business along the value chain plays, from micronutrient producers for animal feed, to milk processors. AB Agri assesses its supply chain risk against criteria aligned to its 'Care Factors' and has prioritised mapping specific ingredients with high inherent ethical risk or where a single market supplies over 90% of global demand. In complex areas where traceability is challenging, AB Agri believes that transparency and good supply chain governance are critical, while recognising the potential for traceability enhancements in the future through better use of technology.

Deforestation and forest risk commodities

As a soybean meal, soy oil and palm oil user, AB Agri has long prioritised mitigating the risks associated with forest-risk commodities. Considerable progress has been made, particularly with soybean meal, a key

ingredient in poultry feeds due to its nutrient efficiency and cost-effectiveness.

AB Agri has committed that all palm oil and soya usage will be certified by 2025, supporting zero deforestation responsible sourcing schemes. In 2023/24, 100% of its palm oil was RSPO certified using a combination of book and claim and mass balance. As of the end of 2024, 74% (2022/23: 64%) of the soya products AB Agri bought worldwide were certificated to schemes meeting the FEFAC benchmark for responsibly sourced soya. This is a significant increase compared to 37% in 2020.

Since September 2023, all of AB Agri's South American maize and maize co-products have been certified to a minimum book and claim standard. This includes adopting a supplier scheme for sourcing Argentine flint maize, where AB Agri takes the co-product, maize germ. This is a segregated scheme that enables a direct link to the material compared to the 'book and claim' standard.

AB Agri is an active member of the FEFAC Sustainability Committee (which introduced soya sourcing guidelines in 2015), the Agricultural Industries Confederation Sustainability Committee and the UK Roundtable on Sustainable Soy, all of which are working on achieving supply chain solutions.

New laws addressing deforestation, such as the EU Deforestation Regulation, will require new supply chain practices across global markets especially with respect to traceability and data management. AB Agri is working closely with external bodies such as FEFAC, AIC, suppliers and customers, and with its purchasing and commercial teams to build knowledge and capability and develop enhanced processes across its supply chains to address requirements such as these.

Animal health and welfare

Consumers expect the agricultural industry to uphold high standards of animal health and welfare in livestock farming worldwide. Although AB Agri does not operate commercial livestock farms, its technical expertise helps to support animal health through advanced technology and better nutrition.

Animal health and welfare relates to a broad spectrum of considerations, from disease prevention to stocking density and other living condition factors. These are best described by the Five Domains Model for animal health and welfare, which form the basis of AB Agri's Animal Health and Welfare Policy.

Antimicrobial resistance is recognised as a threat to human health, and the livestock sector has been making efforts to reduce antibiotic use for decades. In 2016, a UN declaration encouraged governments to work together on responsible antibiotic use and international co-operation.

While significant progress has been made, concerns remain around the risk and impact of disease, which can lead to reduced production rates and lead to waste. To minimise this risk, AB Agri has operational procedures in place to prevent being a vector in the spread of diseases in customer farms.

AB Agri's Animal Health and Welfare Steering Committee, which is responsible for monitoring and responding to animal health and welfare challenges, has mapped the top five focus areas across its species groups: pigs, poultry, ruminants, pets and equines.

The five issues currently cover:

- prevalent diseases;
- commercial and economic pressures;

- product regulatory requirements;
- problems associated with inefficient production; and
- animal robustness.

AB Agri has mapped where its businesses can offer support to livestock farmers and horse and pet owners to address these concerns and how it can positively influence the welfare for each species group.

It reviews these five areas of focus annually to ensure it continues to offer relevant products and services, including technical consultation to improve health and welfare across the industry. Four material components, genetics, nutrition, management, testing and monitoring, work in harmony to better support animal health and welfare today and in the future.

Where veterinary medicines can only treat illness once it is already present, AB Agri's approach is to focus on proactively protecting animal health and supporting immune systems through nutritional strategies, monitoring and advice.

Animal testing

In 2024, the AB Agri Animal Health and Welfare Steering Committee updated the AB Agri Animal Testing Policy, covering all business activities related to animal testing².

2. Defined as scientific procedures performed on living animals outside of what an animal would expect to experience either in its natural environment or in a typical domestic or farmed situation.

Case study - AB Agri

Supporting food and farm ecosystems



A colleague sampling feed at our ABN mill, Enstone, UK

Supporting customers in achieving more sustainable farm ecosystems has become an essential part of AB Agri's service offering.

AB Sustain plays a crucial role in connecting consumers, retailers, processors and farmers by offering farm and supply chain programmes and tools which support more sustainable supply chains. Its 'Farm Footprints' on-farm carbon footprint assessment service, launched in 2007, helps major international food producers to measure their supply chain emissions. Additionally, AB Agri's dairy consultancy business, Kite Consulting, provides practical guidance on emissions reduction and nutrient conservation to individual farm operations.

AB Agri has committed to calculating product environmental footprints for all branded animal nutrition products by 2027. This initiative leverages diverse data sources, including primary production data, Global Feed Lifecycle Assessment Institute (GFLI) information and suitable proxies for unlisted materials. The tool and its methodology have been peer-reviewed and validated by University College London.

In 2023, AB Agri completed the collection of carbon emission values for all the raw materials used in its compound feeds globally. AB Agri is now collecting carbon values for its specialty feed ingredients, where data is often scarce or hard to obtain. However, AB Agri is working closely with its technical teams, suppliers and carbon footprint specialists, and aims to have completed this work by the end of 2025, with all remaining products completed by 2027.

Building nutritional knowledge to support animal health



Piglet feed, AB Neo Centre of Excellence

AB Agri's business, AB Neo, which focuses on neonatal and maternal stages in animals, uses its Centre of Excellence piglet trial farm facility in Spain, to better understand the impact of early nutrition for piglets. In 2023/24 this has included trials focused on supporting gut health during the 'transition' period, where a piglet's diet shifts from milk to solid feed. This is a critical period for piglets, due to significant changes in the gut environment. By optimising the diet during this phase, AB Neo aims to harness its transition-period expertise to help the animal maintain robust health.

Case study - AB Agri

NMR early detection



Milk testing at NMR laboratory in Wolverhampton, UK

In recent years, there have been improvements in the potential for testing and monitoring to detect early, sub-clinical signs of infection in livestock. Developed by AB Agri's milk testing and analytics business, NMR, 'GenoCells' is a next-generation milk test that provides individual cow Somatic Cell Counts (SCC) using a single bulk milk sample enabling the early detection of mastitis. GenoCells analyses the genetics of all cows in the herd. If the bulk milk sample shows a high SCC, GenoCells can pinpoint the specific cow responsible. This allows for early intervention, helps to detect sub-clinical mastitis, improves milk quality and reduces the need for antibiotics.