Agriculture and farming practices

Across the Group, our food and retail businesses depend on agricultural systems for the majority of the raw materials and ingredients required to make our products.



A Jordans Farm Partnership farm in Hampshire, UK

We recognise the importance of managing those agricultural systems responsibly if we are to meet a growing population's need for safe, nutritious and affordable food and clothing that is great value for money.
We also recognise the interconnectivity between agriculture and climate change, and how efforts to address the risks, opportunities and impacts related to climate change, land use, water, soil health and waste all have an impact on agriculture. Our businesses support a wide range of interventions at the agricultural and farm level, with a focus on more sustainable farm management practices and addressing the most material impacts, risks and opportunities. This includes a number of activities, including certified organic production, engagement with smallholder growers and adoption of farm management systems focused on driving more sustainable farm productivity.

We have a strong association with the UK agricultural sector, and our food businesses are working closely with UK farmers to support more regenerative farming practices for cereals such as wheat and oats. We are a significant purchaser of cotton, sugar beet, sugar cane, tea and cereals, and a number of our businesses are working directly with farmers to identify opportunities within the supply chain to protect and enhance biodiversity.

Our businesses are expected to continuously consider and implement activities, voluntary commitments and internationally recognised management systems that can guide and assist efforts to reduce their environmental and social impacts and risks.

This encompasses our responsible approach to the 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 agricultural, farm-level social and environmental interventions. These involve a number of farm management models, including standards to promote wildlife biodiversity, engagement with smallholder growers in developing markets, certified organic production, and adoption of farm management systems built on driving more sustainable farm productivity.

A number of the farm management standards supported by our businesses align with the core principles of Integrated Farm Management. These principles incorporate a range of management practices across a number of designated criteria, from the safe handling of agrochemicals and improving soil structure, to water management practices and pollution control. The objective of these is to shape management practices to promote systemic commercial, social and environmental resilience for the long term.

ABF Sugar promotes more sustainable farming practices across both sugar beet and sugar cane production, implementing more 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 or TASCC (Trade Assurance Scheme for Combinable Crops) assured. Through its partnership with Frontier Agriculture, an ABF joint venture, Allied Mills has delivered a five-year wheat sustainability project with farmers in the south-east of England aimed at improving soil health, supporting biodiversity and reducing GHG emissions through the adoption of more regenerative farming practices. Jordans Cereals sources some of its grains through the Jordans Farm Partnership, which offers farmers a premium for their produce in exchange for their commitment to more 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 practices are intended to reduce the environmental impacts of growing cotton, lower input costs by replacing chemical pesticides with biological alternatives, which results in increased yields and improved farmer profits. In 2025, 57% of the cotton clothing units sold contained cotton that was organic, recycled or sourced from the Primark Cotton Project.

Some of our businesses 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 piloting AI and high-resolution camera technology to treat individual plants with pinpoint accuracy and reduce the use of herbicides. To further enhance on-farm biodiversity, it is also piloting pollinator sensors that deliver real-time data to guide spraying decisions and identify opportunities to strengthen pollinator habitats.

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

Some of our businesses supply a range of products and services to the agricultural sector that facilitate efficient farm management and more 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.

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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. In calendar year 2024, 10% of the palm-related ingredients sourced by our businesses was certified through segregated RSPO supply chains, while 17% was certified through mass balance RSPO supply chains. The remaining 73% of palm-related ingredients sourced across the Group were covered by RSPO book and claim credits.

AB Agri has committed that all palm oil and soya usage, including derivatives, will be certificated supporting zero deforestation responsible sourcing schemes by the end of 2025 across all geographies, except China, which will be certificated by 2028. Although significant progress has been made by its China business, which sells all its products to the local market, AB Agri acknowledges that the Chinese market presents greater challenges particularly for soya.

In calendar year 2024, 100% palm oil and derivatives were certificated, supporting more sustainable production, using a combination of RSPO book and claim credits and mass balance. As of October 2025, 94% of the soya products AB Agri purchased globally, excluding China, were certificated to schemes meeting the European Feed Manufacturers' Federation (FEFAC) benchmark for responsibly sourced soya, and the plan is to achieve 100% before the end of 2025. Including China, this figure was 83%. AB Agri is an active member of the FEFAC Sustainability Committee, the Agricultural Industries Confederation Sustainability Committee and the UK Roundtable on Sustainable Soy, all of which are working on supply chain solutions to achieve more sustainable supply.

Primark's policy for responsible sourcing of wood and wood-derived products supports its efforts to reduce the risk of deforestation across the supply chain, both for goods for resale, such as wood homeware products, and goods not for resale such as packaging and paper.

In preparation for the EU Deforestation Regulation (EUDR), our businesses have been working to identify products in scope of the regulation and ensure the relevant policies, controls, procedures and systems are in place to ensure compliance. This has been supported by guidance and tools to support understanding and effective EUDR due diligence.

Animal health and welfare

At ABF, we believe in the importance of maintaining appropriate animal health and welfare standards, and the Group Animal Health and Welfare Position Statement sets out how we expect our businesses to approach this issue. Within the Group, only AB Agri and DON 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 trials[1], 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. 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

A small number of our businesses purchase eggs. We have a Group commitment that by the end of 2025 all eggs purchased by our businesses will be cage-free, with the exception of AB Mauri targeting 100% cage-free egg sourcing across the Americas by 2030.

We have seen progress this year in some regions and our businesses continue to work with suppliers, customers, and industry partners to advance cage-free sourcing.

The overall proportion of cage-free eggs purchased within the Group remained flat at 26% compared to 2024, with progress in some regions offset by a more static picture in Latin America, where cage-free sourcing is less advanced. We have seen progress this year in some regions and our businesses continue to work with suppliers, customers, and industry partners to advance cage-free sourcing. We remain committed to publishing annual updates to track progress and ensure transparency for stakeholders. All data quoted relates to the regions where we purchased eggs in the reporting period 1 September 2024 to 31 August 2025.

Europe Region

In the UK and Ireland, 55% of eggs purchased by weight were cage-free in 2025, up from 44% in 2024. Several businesses, including British Sugar and Westmill Foods, sourced 100% cage-free eggs during the year, while others have transitioned or aim to transition by the end of the calendar year 2025, meaning in some cases that they will not be captured in the data until our reporting next year. Our Grocery businesses in this region have reached cage-free status for all own-branded products. The balance of egg sourcing relates to licensed products for customer brands, where sourcing decisions are externally controlled. These businesses are engaging with their customers to support transition efforts, but the reality is that our ability to leverage change here is limited, and some customers have their own targets with longer timelines. In the rest of Europe, all egg-purchasing businesses have already achieved 100% cage-free sourcing.

Asia Pacific Region

In Australia and New Zealand, 50% of eggs purchased by weight were cage-free in 2025, up from 42% in 2024. Our businesses continued to progress toward the cage free commitment, with Mauri ANZ sourcing 100% cage-free eggs during 2025. Other businesses plan to complete the transition by the end of the calendar year 2025 and this progress will therefore be reported in our 2026 financial year disclosures. However, due to market challenges, including avian flu risks and supply constraints, some businesses are now targeting full conversion by the end of 2026.

Americas Region

In 2025, cage-free eggs represented 22% of purchases by weight in Latin America and 0% in US. AB Mauri, a significant purchaser in the region, targets 100% cage-free sourcing across the Americas by 2030. In Brazil, where the cage-free industry is less developed, AB Mauri is targeting 50% cage-free sourcing by 2028 and 100% by 2030. We recognise that unforeseen events, such as avian flu outbreaks, may impact progress toward these long-term goals.

Agriculture and farming practices – Retail

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



Responsible agriculture, biodiversity and land use

A cotton farmer from the Primark Cotton Project, India

Primark depends on the agricultural sector for its raw materials, such as cotton, which is the main fibre used in its products. Globally, cotton is the most widely grown non-food crop, providing income for more than 250 million[1] people. 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 (PCP) in India in 2013. The PCP 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. You can read more about the PCP in the case study below.

Soil health and biodiversity loss pose potentially significant challenges to the global agricultural 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 biodiversity monitoring framework for the PCP. 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 aims to enable the business to identify and mitigate biodiversity-related risks within the supply chain.

Primark is also working with its partners Biodiversify and the Srushti Conservation Foundation to develop a methodology for assessing biodiversity levels on farms participating in the PCP to achieve consistency, repeatability and scientific rigour. Since 2024, this methodology has been piloted and implemented on 14 farms in Gujarat, India.

1. https://www.worldwildlife.org/industries/cotton

Deforestation

Primark uses man-made cellulosic fibres derived from wood-pulp, such as viscose, to make some of 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. This Policy applies to all Primark-branded products, product packaging (primary and secondary) and transit packaging (tertiary).

Primark is committed to reducing its impact on the environment. This includes the reduction and reuse of materials as a priority for the protection of the world's limited forest resources.

Primark has 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. Regular due diligence is carried out to check compliance with this requirement.

In preparation for the EU Deforestation Regulation (EUDR), Primark is working with external bodies and suppliers to address the requirements.

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 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.



The Primark Cotton Project

Improving farming practice

The Primark Cotton Project provides farmers with three years of agronomic training in more regenerative agricultural practices. This includes best practice in areas including seed selection and pesticide use. These practices are intended to reduce the environmental impacts of growing cotton, lower input costs by replacing chemical pesticides with biological alternatives, which results in increased yields and improved farmer profits.

In 2025, the programme extended its work to farmers who had already completed the three-year foundational training, offering targeted guidance to further embed more regenerative practices. It also identified a diversified set of regenerative methods tailored to smallholder farmers in different geographical regions, for example, intercropping with legumes in Pakistan, and using mulch to improve soil health in India.

Primark's approach to promoting more regenerative agricultural practices was reviewed by agronomic experts at Harper Adams University to ensure it reflects global best practice and the latest scientific insight.

As of March 2025, the majority of farmers in the Primark Cotton Project have adopted at least two agricultural practices that are considered 'more regenerative'. These include:

- reduced or no-tillage, minimising soil disturbance to preserve structure and sequester carbon;
- cover cropping and intercropping, e.g., planting crops like sorghum between cotton plants or along borders to enhance nutrients and attract beneficial insects and birds;
- rotation, alternating cotton with other crop species sequentially to break pest cycles, improve soil fertility, optimise nutrients in the soil, and diversify outputs;
- natural fertilisers, using farmyard manure, bio-compost or vermicompost to enrich soil organic matter, reduce the use of synthetic alternatives and improve microbial life;
- integrated pest management, using biological and ecological control methods that preserve beneficial insects, such as pheromone traps and bird perches; and
- incorporation of cotton stalks into the soil, instead of burning, to maintain soil organic matter. This can reduce the use of chemical fertilisers and prevent nitrogen-driven algae blooms that harm river ecosystems.

Strengthening farmers' resilience

Primark has implemented measures to help strengthen the resilience of farmers participating in the programme.

It has partnered with Haqdarshak, an Indian social enterprise, to support the farmers in the programme with accessing government-funded benefits.

Primark also assessed the availability and uptake of insurance products that protect farmers against risks such as extreme heat, working with the International Institute for Environment and Development to research barriers to access. The research outlined potential solutions to these challenges, and drawing on these insights, Primark is considering how it can support new approaches to facilitate farmers' access to suitable insurance.

Meeting the needs of Primark's supply chain

Primark employs the traceability system of its partner, Cotton Connect, which tracks the cotton grown by farmers trained in the Primark Cotton Project as it passes through some of the supply chain. Primark uses a digital platform called TraceBale to track the cotton from farmer to ginner to spinner. To give further assurance, Primark uses forensic analysis undertaken by Oritain, a specialist scientific verification firm, which helps verify the origin of cotton in the programme.

The programme's impact

The Primark Cotton Project has been operating for over 12 years in India, seven years in Bangladesh and Pakistan, and two years in Türkiye. As of July 2025, the programme has supported 309,394 smallholder farmers.

In 2025, 57% of the cotton clothing units sold contained cotton that was organic, recycled or sourced from the Primark Cotton Project.

A cotton farmer from the Primark Cotton Project, India

Agriculture and farming practices – Grocery

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



A farmer growing Hom Mali rice for Westmill using the Sustainable Rice Platform Standard, Thailand.

Responsible agriculture, biodiversity and land use

The Grocery businesses have strong links to the global farming sector, sourcing products from crops grown on farms, tea gardens and smallholdings around the world. The approached they take reflect the complexity of supply chains and the nature of their operations.

As they adapt to the evolving regulatory ESG landscape, our Grocery businesses are broadening their approach to managing environmental and social risks, opportunities and impacts in agricultural supply chains. Recognising the critical need for collaboration across the industry, they are working with civil society partners and other industry players to help address supply chain issues.

To help assess environmental risks such as deforestation and biodiversity loss, our Grocery businesses are focusing on specific projects within their most important supply chains. They are also prioritising water reduction and yield increase for certain key commodities such as rice. Climate change is particularly impactful 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). 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 responsible agriculture across some of their most material commodities is presented below.

Rice

Traditional rice-growing methods are water-intensive and release a significant amount of greenhouse gases into the atmosphere, accounting for an estimated 8% of global methane emissions. Westmill Foods, a UK based Grocery Group business and leading supplier of food products to the Indian, Chinese and Thai food service sectors, is a founding member of the Sustainable Rice Platform (SRP) and is committed to its standards.

The SRP is a multi-stakeholder partnership established by the United Nations Environment Programme. Through this partnership, Westmill Foods supports initiatives that aim to promote climate-smart agriculture, protect biodiversity, fight climate change and support smallholder farmers. By adopting SRP standards, Westmill helps produce high-quality rice while reducing 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, focused on equipping them with the tools and techniques needed to train their farmers on more sustainable farming methods in line with the SRP standard.

The programme aims to benefit both farmers and their communities, and covers 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 techniques which also help to reduce GHG emissions.

As of May 2025, the project included 1,200 farmers across 75km of land. In 2025, farmers within the programme have seen a 48% reduction in GHG emissions, a 30% reduction in water usage, a 9% increase in net yield and a 26% increase in net income compared to a set of non-SRP farmers.

Westmill has also completed the second 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 2024, this project supported 800 farmers, and achieved a 56% reduction in fertiliser usage and a 12% increase in net income for farmers compared to 2022. Additionally, farmer groups in the project since 2023 achieved a 22% reduction in GHG emissions compared to 2022.

During 2025, Westmill purchased 67% of their basmati rice and 9% of Thai Hommali rice as SRP-certified rice from the projects mentioned above.

Tea and spices

Twinings sources approximately 13,500 tonnes of tea and more than 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, purchasing tea only from Rainforest Alliance certified gardens across seven regions, China, Kenya, India, Sri Lanka, Argentina, Indonesia and Japan.

Its tea supply chain includes approximately 270,000 workers and smallholder farmers. Central to Twinings' responsible sourcing programme is Sourced with Care, 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, through programmes which are designed to address issues identified through its Twinings Community Needs Assessment (TCNA) programme. The business also collaborates with key partners in the tea sector, such as the ETP, IDH – the Sustainable Trade Initiative and Rainforest Alliance.

Twinings publishes a sourcing map on its website detailing the tea gardens it buys from, as well as the countries from which it sources its key herbs, as part of its efforts to drive collaboration and greater transparency of reporting.

Twinings has achieved 100% traceability for all the tea it sources. For its 17 key herbs and spices[1], it has 94% traceability by volume, back to farm or producer community. Across all herbs and spices sourced, Twinings has reached 85% traceability by volume.

AB World Foods and Westmill are members of the Sustainable Spice Initiative (SSI) and have committed to sourcing 25% of spices in their top three categories among spices, herbs and dehydrated vegetables from SSI-qualified certifications by 2025, rising to 50% by 2030.

Both businesses are making progress towards these targets. In 2025, Westmill sourced 42%of its top three spices (turmeric, chilli and cumin) from Rainforest Alliance-certified sources. AB World Foods sourced 22% of its top three products (coriander, paprika and kibbled onions) from SSI-certified sources. AB World Foods has also set a new target for three additional spices, and from 2025, in addition to the above, it will source 25% sustainably certified material for turmeric, chilli and cumin.

Since 2019, AB World Foods has been working on Project SPICE with partner GRAVIS, a community development organisation in Rajasthan, India, to support rural cumin and coriander farming communities. The project has delivered agronomy and business skills training to over 1,000 farmers, installed rainwater harvesting systems, and delivered wider social benefits to the farming communities including adolescent health education and women's empowerment. In March 2025, Project SPICE won the Edie Sustainability Project of the Year Award, see more information in our case study.

1. The 17 key herbs and spices are: Apple, Blackberry Leaf, Camomile, Cardamon, Cinnamon, Ginger, Hibiscus, Lemongrass, Lemon Peel, Liquorice, Orange, Peppermint, Rosehip, Rooibos, Spearmint, Turmeric and Vanilla.

Cereals

The Grocery businesses buy around 6% 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 also sources UK oats and rye.

Jordans Cereals, a premium cereal brand within our Grocery Group, sources some 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 or TASCC (Trade Assurance Scheme for Combinable Crops) assured. The business is currently five years into its Wheat Sustainability Supply Project, where select farmers adopt techniques that aim to improve soil health and support wildlife.

Silver Spoon, through Allied Mills, is working with four wheat farmers in partnership with Frontier, to source wheat grown using more regenerative agriculture practices. The initiative focuses on crop rotation, soil health, carbon footprint reduction and enhancing biodiversity. This wheat will be used in Allinson's 1kg Strong White Flour from the autumn 2025 harvest.

Allied Mills and Silver Spoon are supporting nature-positive farming practices among wheat suppliers within their value chain, as part of Tesco's Nature Programme. The retailer, which is a key customer of those businesses, established a partnership with the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB), through which RSPB Farm Advisors deliver farm walks and advisory visits to growers supplying wheat to Allied Mills and Silver Spoon. These visits, coordinated in collaboration with Frontier, are designed to promote habitat interventions that support biodiversity and wildlife, while providing practical advice tailored to the needs of farmers. Potential outcomes include the development of habitat action plans, identifying key opportunities for habitat creation, and identifying relevant funding streams to implement work identified.

Animal health and welfare

Grocery Group

The Grocery Group makes 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 the Group's Animal Welfare Position Statement.

The businesses are working towards sourcing 100% cage-free eggs by the end of 2025, please read more here.

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 animal welfare and meeting relevant animal welfare standards, including the internationally recognised Five Domains. It is working towards sourcing 100% cage-free eggs by the end of 2025, please read more here.

George Weston Foods 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, their suppliers in Europe and North America are required to undertake continuous improvement in animal welfare standards and meet all legal requirements.



Broadcasting radio training to smallholder tea and herb farmers

Through its Twinings Community Needs Assessment (TCNA) programme, Twinings identified that smallholder farmers in Kenya, especially women, often lack access to information on health, gender-based violence and harassment (GBVH), farming practices and income diversification. Many live in remote areas and juggle farm work with household responsibilities, leaving little time for formal training.

Radio provided the ideal solution. Research by BBC Media Action[1] shows that it is the most trusted way to reach rural communities, with 95% of people having access at home and 70% listening daily.

In 2022, Twinings first partnered with the Lorna Young Foundation's Farmer Voice Radio programme and local implementing partner, NOPE (National Organisation of Peer Educators) to launch an 18-month programme in Kenya.

More than 50 programmes were broadcast, designed by and for women, in local dialects. Episodes were aired twice a week and also uploaded to YouTube, reaching a regular listenership of more than 8,400 households with information on farming, health and gender equality.

Following this success, Twinings extended the series for a further 10 months with support and funding from the UK Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO) under their Work and Opportunities for Women (WOW) initiative. The additional funding enabled the expansion into two local language stations, with a focus on climate resilience, helping farmers adapt to irregular rainfall, drought and other threats that put tea production and livelihoods at risk.

1. https://www.communityengagementhub.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2019/09/Kenya-Media-Landscape-Report_BBC-Media-Action_November-2018v2.pdf

A smallholder farmer in Twinings supply chain, Kenya

Programmes were co-created with farmers and experts, covering a range of topics including soil health, fertiliser use, pest management, clean energy and income diversification. The topics were chosen by farmers, informed by lived experience and timed with seasonal issues. As the farmers shared their own knowledge and discussed challenges and solutions with experts, it helped ensure the content was engaging and relevant for the farming community who would listen to the programme either in their own homes or in communal listening sessions.

More than 30,000 people tuned in weekly, with over two-thirds of them women. Listeners reported adopting new practices to help mitigate climate change, improving tea yields and quality, and increasing their incomes. This feedback was corroborated by local tea factories. Farmers also reported reducing deforestation, where previously trees had been cut for timber to generate income. Beyond farming, the broadcasts inspired shifts in household decision-making, greater sharing of domestic responsibilities and stronger advocacy for women's empowerment.

Building on its success in Kenya, Twinings launched a radio series in Nigeria in April 2024 for ginger and hibiscus farmers. Over 10 months, 64 episodes aired in local dialects across three radio stations, reaching an estimated 200,000 farmers in the Kaduna, Kano and Jigawa states in the north of the country.

Plans are now in place to take the programme to Sri Lanka, with the aim of providing 60,000 smallholder tea farmers with training on crop diversification, environmentally friendly farming techniques and gender equality.

By bringing vital knowledge to farmers in a format that works for them, Farmer Voice Radio is helping to build more resilient livelihoods and communities, and shaping a more sustainable future for tea.

Case study – Grocery



Jordans Farm Partnership

The Jordans Farm Partnership (JFP) is a UK programme built through a partnership between Jordans, The Wildlife Trust, Linking Environment and Farming (LEAF), and the UK oat farms that Jordans partner with (JFP Farmers). Through this programme, the JFP Farmers are supported as they grow oats that meet the JFP Standard for use in certain Jordans Cereals. It is a working collaboration where each partner brings a different area of expertise to shape the JFP, including habitat creation and restoration knowledge from The Wildlife Trusts, insights on more sustainable farming practices from LEAF, and on-the-ground experiences of their own unique farming model from the JFP Farmers.

Every one of the JFP Farmers agrees that their farm will meet the JFP Standard. The JFP Standard includes a requirement that JFP Farmers receive LEAF Marque certification. As of 2025, all JFP farms are certified to LEAF Marque Standard Version 16.1.

In addition, the JFP Farmers are required to meet additional criteria on wildlife and habitat provision that are specific to the JFP. Specifically, each JFP Farmer works with a dedicated wildlife advisor from their local Wildlife Trust to make sure that at least 10% of their land is managed for wildlife on their farm (the average for the year 2023-2024 was 30%). By working with the JFP Farmers, The Wildlife Trusts and LEAF, the JFP has managed 4,320 hectares for wildlife since 2015.

As part of the Jordans oat sourcing process, it follows an industry-standard mass balance approach. As a result, the Jordans products may contain a mix of JFP and non-JFP oats. Rather than diverting resources to build a costly system to segregate the JFP oats, it believes its resources are best invested in the JFP, to support JFP Farmers and help them to protect wildlife habitats.

For more information refer to Jordans website.

A Jordans Farm Partnership farm in Hampshire, UK

Case study – Grocery



Project SPICE: Award-winning initiative empowering farmers and building climate resilience in rural India

Since 2019, AB World Foods has funded Project SPICE with partner GRAVIS, a community development organisation in Rajasthan, India, to support the livelihoods of rural cumin and coriander farming communities. In its first three years, the project organised 1,000 farmers from two districts in Jodhpur into 50 Farmer Interest Groups (FIG). It delivered focused agronomy and business skills training, created 30 model farms, and supported women within the community, raised awareness of the importance of girls' education, and delivered water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) training. Two formal Farmer Producer Organisations were also established and approved by the Indian Government, providing the structure needed for longevity of the farmer collectives.

Launched in January 2023, SPICE II has continued to support farming communities, with an additional focus on building climate resilience. During the three-year project, AB World Foods has funded the installation of 50 'taankas' (drinking water storage tanks), 50 bio-sand water filters, and 50 'khadins' (drainage dykes) for those families identified by the FIG as most in need.

By July 2025, these had all been constructed, providing much better access to safe drinking water and resulting in household savings. Soil moisture levels on farms have also improved, with initial indications showing more than a 20% increase in yield and an almost 30% reduction in irrigation water. The impact this project is having on the daily lives of farmers involved is tangible and feedback has been positive, with farmers sharing that by having taankas installed in their homes, they no longer have to walk over 10km each day to fetch water.

SPICE II also aims to address broader social and community health issues, with sessions on adolescent health that include topics such as personal hygiene and menstruation, balanced diets, and understanding gender and gender discrimination.

The project is also mobilising women farmers into 50 Women Self-Help Groups, with the aim of creating informal associations to help them find solutions to some socio-economic problems through dedicated empowerment training activities, including financial literacy and business skills. As of 2025, 40 SHGs have been formed, including an additional group solely for younger women.

Another focus of SPICE II has been to work with farmers to grow integrated pest management (IPM) grade cumin. As part of this effort, project farmers have been linked to one of AB World Foods' key spice suppliers in the region, which already runs its own integration programme with the farmers, educating on programmes to improve yield, minimise waste and support sustainable agriculture. In 2025, over 15 tonnes of cumin met IPM standards, with 10 tonnes procured for the AB World Foods supply chain via its strategic spice supplier in the region, up from just over one tonne in 2024.

In March 2025, Project SPICE won the Edie Sustainability Project of the Year Award, with the judges commenting:

"This project shows the measurable positive impact of providing long-term support to smallholder farmers and their communities. AB World Foods recorded impressive increases in crop yield and results in terms of water management which is vital in water scarce areas. The project also demonstrates enhanced climate resilience – something not strategically prioritised or measured by many businesses."

A farmer who has worked with the SPICE II programme on pest management, India

Case study – Grocery



Allied Mills Wheat Sustainability Supply Project

Since 2020, Allied Mills has partnered with Frontier Agriculture, an ABF joint venture, to deliver a five-year Wheat Sustainability Supply Project with a group of growers in south-east England. The initiative supports the adoption of more regenerative farming practices, such as crop rotation, minimal tillage and precision agriculture. All of these practices are aimed at improving soil health, supporting biodiversity and reducing GHG emissions. Participating farmers receive a premium for their more sustainably grown wheat.

Despite challenges from extreme weather and market volatility, including fertiliser price spikes linked to the war in Ukraine, the project has demonstrated measurable environmental benefits. Emissions from participating farms were found to be 17% lower than standard UK wheat emission factors, with lower nitrogen fertiliser use identified as the most significant driver of emissions reduction. Nitrogen fertiliser accounts for over 60% of milling wheat's carbon footprint.

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

Building on this success, Allied Mills has committed to extending the trial through to 2029, with plans to expand into new regions including Manchester. The next phase will explore low-emission fertiliser technologies, nitrification inhibitors and enhanced nitrogen optimisation strategies to further reduce environmental impact while maintaining crop quality and yield.

Allied Bakeries is also championing more sustainable sourcing by using LEAF Marque certified wheat for two of its Allinson's lines, The Champion Wholemeal and Scandalous Seeds. This partnership began in February 2025 and operates on a mass balance basis.

The on-pack copy states:

"Allinson's is proud to support farms independently certified by LEAF, helping to deliver environmental benefits such as nurturing the soil and sustaining habitats for wildlife. We do this by sourcing wheat from LEAF Marque farms, following a mass balance approach to cover 100% of the wholemeal wheat flour needed to make these loaves."

Agriculture and farming practices – Ingredients

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



A harvested rice field, California, United States

Biodiversity and land use

Our Ingredients businesses source agricultural ingredients 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.

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 division 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 not purchased, the business 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 for the AB Mauri UK and Ireland business was certified through Identity Preserved, Segregated and Mass Balance RSPO supply chains.

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 soya entering the UK is deforestation and conversion free by 2025. The policy includes commitments to sourcing deforestation and conversion free, non-GMO, fully traceable soya, requiring direct suppliers to adopt and cascade the same commitment, and integrating these requirements into supplier contracts. More than 99% of the business's soya products were sourced from a crop grown in Canada in 2025, 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.

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 recognises the risk of deforestation linked to global palm oil supply chains. Since 2016, ABITEC, which sources a limited amount of palm-related raw materials, has been using RSPO certified palm oil ingredients through a book and claim supply chain model.

Another ABFI business, PGPI 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 – Sugar

ABF Sugar's businesses are working to deploy more sustainable farming practices across their estates, trialling more regenerative agriculture approaches in some of their operations and working to increase resilience among growers in the agricultural supply chain.



Cane fields on the Ubombo sugar estate, Eswatini

ABF Sugar's businesses are working to deploy more sustainable farming practices across their estates, trialling more regenerative agriculture approaches in some of their operations, and working to ensure growers in their agricultural supply chains have access to the necessary expertise for successful sugar cultivation, with the aim of increasing resilience.

ABF Sugar attributes part of its business success to productive, high-yielding and robust agricultural practices at its African 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 insight, ABF Sugar has partnered with Risilience, a sustainability intelligence company, to comprehensively assess its material nature-related dependencies, impacts, opportunities and risks. The insights gained from this project are informing ABF Sugar businesses' strategic direction and plans 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 2025, ABF Sugar businesses faced significant challenges due to extreme weather events, including heatwaves, droughts and floods, which had a substantial impact on their agricultural and farming practices. These experiences have driven the development of innovative approaches that seek 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 its 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 Red Tractor Crops and Sugar Beet Standards in the UK or the Sustainable Sugarcane Farm Management System (SUSFARMS®) in South Africa.

ABF Sugar has achieved FSA silver level equivalence across all its businesses' own operations, and also grower operations in Nchalo and Dwangwa in Malawi. Illovo Sugar South Africa has achieved Proterra Certification for selected farms, Sezela Sugar Mill and Sezela downstream products factories. The long-term goal is to expand this programme to include additional cane-growing regions, ensuring that a greater volume of sugar delivered to the mills meets the criteria set by the FSA.

In Spain, Azucarera was awarded FSA silver level equivalence after an audit process that took place in the last months of 2024. This process of assessing, improving and validating on-farm sustainability using SAI's FSA tools will help to encourage farmers towards more sustainable practices and enable ABF Sugar to measure and demonstrate its collective progress toward its GHG emissions reduction targets.

In Tanzania, Kilombero Sugar introduced the FSA for Harambee AMCOS (Agricultural Micro-Credit Organisations) who supply its factory to evaluate farming practices, identify opportunities for improvement, and develop strategies for a continuous improvement plan. The initiative also aims to strengthen the economic resilience of local farmers.

ABF Sugar businesses co-fund research institutions and partnership organisations with its growers, including:

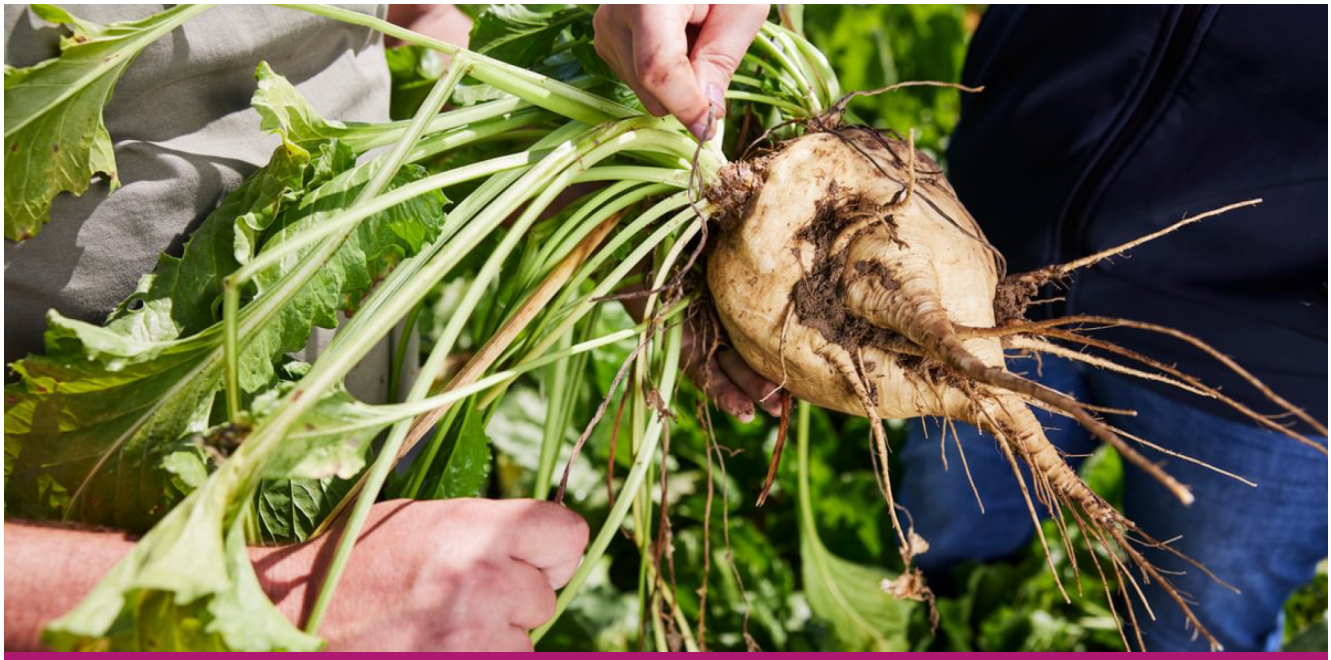
- the Research Association for Sugar Beet Crop Improvement (AIMCRA) (Spain);
- Agroteo (Spain);
- the South African Sugarcane Research Institute (SASRI); and
- the British Beet Research Organisation (BBRO).

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 and Agroteo 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 projects such as beetle banks and refuge areas, the use of cover crops and tree planting at its Nakambala site in Zambia and its sites in Malawi. As of August 2025, just under 6,000 trees have been planted at its Nakambala site, supporting ecosystem and biodiversity restoration. In addition, Illovo Sugar Malawi established protected areas on both the Dwangwa and Nchalo estates, which are home to diverse plant and animal life.

As a member of the Integrated Kilombero Multi-stakeholder Platform, led by the African Wildlife Foundation, Kilombero Sugar supports collaborative efforts in managing the conservation of natural resources including land, forests and water sources across the Kilombero Valley. By engaging in this platform, ABF Sugar aims to help protect critical ecosystems and support long-term water availability for agriculture and communities.

In recent years, the sugar beet industry has been significantly impacted by Virus Yellows 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 Virus Yellows has become a priority for ABF Sugar's UK and Spanish businesses.



Fighting Virus Yellows disease in the field at British Sugar and Azucarera

In 2025, British Sugar has continued its collaborative work within its Virus Yellows Pathway, alongside NFU Sugar and the BBRO.

Within the Virus Yellows Pathway, work continues on researching 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 and grasses to camouflage the sugar beet, as well as using odours like onion, peppermint and garlic to distract the aphids from identifying the crop. In 2025, there are two more partially Virus Yellows-tolerant seed varieties available on the Recommended List that growers can choose to sow.

British Sugar has also invested in a collaborative project with agriculture biotechnology business Tropic and the plant science institute, The John Innes Centre, 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, identifying viral target genes, GEiGS® solution design and initial tissue culture experiments have now been completed.

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 with support from The British Beet Research Organisation (BBRO). The grant runs until the end of 2028, when British Sugar will continue to fund the project in pursuit of a commercially viable beet seed.

A recent survey conducted by British Sugar revealed that 69% of UK adults support gene editing in farming, with Gen Z showing the highest support at 80%. This technology is seen as a crucial step towards creating stronger, disease-resistant crops, reducing pesticide use and improving yields. The research coincides with the secondary legislation for the Precision Breeding Act passing through the UK Parliament, with a new regulatory framework coming into force in November 2025.

However, the UK sugar beet industry faced challenges when the government refused emergency authorisation for the use of Cruiser SB pesticide in 2025, leaving the industry exposed to Virus Yellows disease. British Sugar, along with NFU Sugar, has requested urgent support from Defra to expedite trials and research within the Virus Yellows Pathway. Despite this setback, British Sugar remains committed to finding more sustainable solutions to protect crops and support British farmers.

In Spain, the Research Association for Sugar Beet Crop Improvement (AIMCRA) has continued to monitor aphid populations on plants and analyse early symptoms, such as yellowing and other potential indicators. As part of its ongoing activities, it has requested exceptional approval for the use of four active ingredients in cultivation for 2025, three insecticides and one fungicide. On a regular basis, the team has continued to test various plant varieties and assess their impact on production, analyse resistance to fungicides, and develop strategies related to beet cultivation.

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



South Africa and growers supporting soil health outcomes

ABF 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 help 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 benefit the land by increasing soil organic matter, controlling pests and fixing nitrogen. Sugar cane and soyabeans complement each other in pest control, disrupting pest cycles and reducing overall pest populations by decreasing the concentration of host plants. Intercropping with soyabeans benefits the businesses as the leftover soyabean residue decomposes and acts as a natural fertiliser for the next sugar cane season. It also improves crop development.

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

Pilot to improve soil biodiversity

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 their southern African supply chains and establish more sustainable agricultural practices. The project aims to educate local teams and to develop protocols for on-farm teams to monitor soil biodiversity.

Overall, this project will contribute to deepen 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. In 2025, the University of Cape Town concluded their second round of baseline tests, collecting over 2,000 samples from sugar cane fields at Nakambala in Zambia, Nchalo in Malawi and Ubombo in Eswatini.

Looking ahead, ABF Sugar's businesses in Africa plan to 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.



Soil samples being collected at the Nakambala estate, Zambia

Case study – Sugar



British Sugar focus on improving agricultural practices to reduce environmental impacts

Working closely with partners, researchers and its own in-house farming operations, British Sugar is exploring and piloting innovative approaches to reduce environmental impact while maintaining crop performance.

One key area of focus is through the work of the British Beet Research Organisation (BBRO), co-funded by British Sugar and NFU Sugar. BBRO is investigating a range of strategies to lower the carbon footprint of sugar beet production, including:

- low-carbon nitrogen fertilisers tailored to the crop's specific nutritional needs;
- precision fertiliser application using placement and banding techniques to reduce waste and emissions; and
- sustainable soil management practices that minimise compaction, retain organic matter and boost microbial activity, all supporting long-term soil health and productivity.

Alongside research, British Sugar is trialling practical innovations on its own 'self-grow' farms. A pilot is underway using the ARA Field Sprayer by Ecorobotix, which leverages AI and high-resolution camera technology to identify and treat individual plants with pinpoint accuracy. This Plant-by-Plant™ technology has the potential to cut herbicide use by up to 90%, protecting biodiversity, improving soil quality, reducing impacts on water quality and reducing the risk of pesticide resistance.

In a further step to support on-farm biodiversity, British Sugar has partnered with AgriSound to run a 24-month pilot of in-field pollinator sensors. These smart devices track the number and frequency of pollinators in real time via a live dashboard. The insights are helping growers make informed spraying decisions and identify areas where additional habitat or interventions could enhance pollinator activity.

Together, these initiatives highlight British Sugar's commitment to building a more sustainable, resilient and environmentally responsible agricultural future.

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

Agriculture and farming practices – Agriculture

For AB Agri, building more sustainable ecosystems means optimising land use across both individual farms and entire food systems. This approach helps to ensure that land is effectively utilised at all levels for food and feed production, carbon storage, energy generation and human activities.



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

Some essential inputs for agriculture, such as CO_2 for plant growth and nitrogen for livestock feed, contribute to climate change. Improving the efficiency of these inputs not only reduces CO_2 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 its approach. Underpinned by its community of scientists, all commercial solutions developed by its businesses are rigorously assessed for safety and to demonstrate 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 do not always keep pace with scientific developments. This creates opportunities in more adaptable markets to 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 stakeholders 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, the Global Feed LCA Institute, the Global Dairy Platform and the British Equestrian Trade Association, to name just a few.

The UK Dairy Carbon Network is a UK-wide consortium, led by The Agri-Food and Biosciences Institute, and is a three-year project funded by Defra.

The project aims to establish a network of 56 dairy farms across four major dairy regions in the UK: Northern Ireland, Cumbria and Southwest Scotland, Northwest England, and South/Southwest England and West Wales. These networks will serve as demonstration hubs where farmers, industry, scientists and policy representatives will work together to deploy, assess and measure the impact of solutions to reduce GHG emissions on farms.

These measures will include innovations in animal management to improve health and welfare, feeding strategies and nutrient management as well as additives and technology.

AB Agri is a key stakeholder for this project, working closely with the project partners to enable all its relevant products and services to be offered to farmers as part of the network. These products and services can then be assessed for impact through a combination of direct measurements, novel indicators and farm-level carbon footprint models. It is envisaged that AB Agri businesses such as Kite, NRM, KW/Trident, Intellync and Bodit will have key roles to play throughout the duration of the project.

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 and feed 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

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.

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 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 user of soya and palm oil derivatives, AB Agri has long prioritised mitigating the risks associated with forest-risk commodities[1]. Considerable progress has been made, particularly with soybean meal, a key ingredient in poultry feeds due to its nutrient content and cost-effectiveness.

AB Agri has committed that all palm oil and soya usage, including derivatives, will be certificated supporting zero deforestation responsible sourcing schemes by the end of 2025 across all geographies, except China, which will be certificated by 2028. Although significant progress has been made by its China business, which sells all its products to the local market, AB Agri acknowledges that the Chinese market presents greater challenges particularly for soya.

In calendar year 2024, 100% palm oil and derivatives were certificated, supporting more sustainable production, using a combination of RSPO book and claim credits and mass balance.

As of October 2025, 94% of the soya products AB Agri purchased globally, excluding China, were certificated to schemes meeting the European Feed Manufacturers' Federation (FEFAC) benchmark for responsibly sourced soya, and the plan is to achieve 100% before the end of 2025. Including China, this figure was 83%. AB Agri is an active member of the FEFAC Sustainability Committee, the Agricultural Industries Confederation Sustainability Committee and the UK Roundtable on Sustainable Soy, all of which are working on supply chain solutions to achieve more sustainable supply.

Since September 2023, all of AB Agri's South American maize and maize co-products have been certificated as a minimum to a book and claim standard[2]. AB Agri has also adopted a supplier scheme for sourcing segregated Argentine flint maize, where AB Agri takes the co-product, maize germ.

In 2007, AB Agri's UK businesses supported the Soya Moratorium which committed to end the purchase of soybeans produced on deforested land in the Brazilian Amazon Biome.

New laws addressing deforestation, such as the EU Deforestation Regulation (EUDR), 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 internally with its purchasing and commercial teams, to build knowledge, capability and develop enhanced processes across its supply chains to address these requirements. AB Agri is reassessing how its forest-risk commodity targets should evolve, taking into account new regulatory requirements, as well as emerging market expectations and best practices.

1. Forest Risk commodities for AB Agri are defined as soya, palm oil and derivatives, cocoa, wood flour, and South American maize.
2. The supply chain model book and claim represents the trade of credits through a credit trading platform. The certificates are separated from the physical flow of feed.

Animal health and welfare

Consumers expect the global agricultural industry to uphold high standards of animal health and welfare in livestock farming. 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 on the topic.

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.

In 2025, AB Agri updated its Animal Health and Welfare Policy to reflect the increased scope of its business units. The Policy also includes the indirect roles that its NMR laboratory services business and its dairy consultancy business, Kite Consulting, play in supporting improvements in animal health and welfare in dairy farms across the UK.

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 annually reviews these five areas of focus 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 testing[1]. As part of the approval process of any trials that are defined as animal testing, AB Agri has included an independent third-party expert reviewer to evaluate all trial protocols and the justifications for performing the trial. The reviewer has the authority to challenge any aspect of the trial, and it cannot be approved until they are satisfied.

1. 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 – Agriculture



Supporting food and farm ecosystems

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 GHG emissions. Additionally, AB Agri's dairy consultancy business, Kite Consulting, provides practical guidance on GHG emissions reduction and nutrient conservation to individual farm operations.

In 2025, AB Agri partnered with leading dairy processor Müller on an initiative designed to reduce GHG emissions from dairy farms by harnessing real-time data analysis and benefiting from real-time data insights. Initially involving 40 farms across Great Britain, the Fast Track programme aims to move beyond traditional annual GHG emissions reporting by utilising automated data integration from numerous sources including Feedlync, an AB Agri-provided cloud-based feed management system. Fast Track will provide farmers with real-time insights into critical data related to feed efficiency, fertility, stock numbers and energy-corrected milk, empowering them to make data-driven decisions that accelerate GHG emission reduction.

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 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 GHG emission values for all the raw materials used in its compound feeds globally. AB Agri is now collecting carbon values for its speciality 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.

This work has also enabled the business to support customers in calculating their feed emissions. Premier Nutrition, AB Agri's UK-based premix business, launched an Equine Feed Emissions calculator in 2025. Using the tool, customers input their feed materials and calculate GHG emissions for the feed.

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

Building nutritional knowledge to support animal health

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. 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.



Piglet feed, AB Neo Centre of Excellence, Spain

NMR early detection

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.



Milk testing at NMR laboratory in Wolverhampton, UK

Pet supplement to support psychological wellbeing

A new product from AB Agri's Global Supplements business, Zilcalm, was launched in 2024 under the Nutrilabs brand into the European veterinary market to help support calm behaviour in dogs and cats. The rise in pet ownership during the pandemic, followed by a return to normal working patterns, had left many owners and vets looking for ways to support the mental wellbeing of the animals under their care. Zilcalm is a nutritional supplement that contains a milk protein that is clinically proven to reduce anxiety and stress in dogs and cats. The product also includes herbal actives, amino acids, vitamins, a postbiotic yeast and Omega-3 fatty acids, all carefully formulated to work together to help provide support for both short-term stress and longer-term cognitive health.

Stress is a well-known precursor to many physiological issues that can affect a pet's overall health in a variety of ways, and being able to offer a science-led nutritional product that complements training and environmental enrichment has been well received by Nutrilabs' customers.



The Zilcalm supplement, produced by AB Agri's NutriLabs business