Trade and Sustainable Agriculture Symposium

# Resource Book

4-5 November 2025 | Brisbane Convention Centre, QLD

Australian Government
Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

Australian Farm Institute

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# Trade and Sustainable Agriculture Symposium

4-5 November 2025 | Brisbane Convention Centre, QLD

# Participant Resource Book

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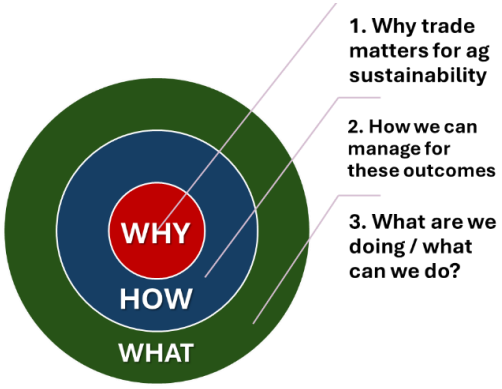
# Integrating sustainability outcomes in agricultural trade policies

*Katie McRobert & Kade Denton, Australian Farm Institute*

*A discussion paper for the International Trade and Sustainable Agriculture Symposium, 4-5 November 2025 (Brisbane, Australia)*

## Introduction

Trade has long underpinned global economic growth, improving living standards and food security while fostering prosperity across communities. Agricultural trade, in particular, has shaped livelihoods and development for millennia. As the world faces compounding pressures from population growth, climate change and shifting consumption patterns, the role of trade in supporting sustainable food systems is becoming ever more critical — even as greater attention turns to its environmental, social and economic dimensions.




Yet, as societies pursue sustainability, food security, and economic growth, it is essential to recognise that these objectives can sometimes compete. For example, an increase in agricultural production may support economic development and improve food security, but it can also place greater pressure on natural resources. The challenge for policymakers and industry alike is to balance and align these goals — ensuring that trade and agricultural systems advance environmental, social and economic outcomes together, rather than at the expense of one another.

Agriculture is inherently linked to the environmental, social, and cultural health of all communities and countries. A sustainable farming business is one that looks to its long-term profitability, productivity, and stewardship of natural and social resources. Sustainability extends beyond the natural environment; it encompasses the financial, intellectual and human capital that enable farmers to adapt and thrive. In a policy context, this means recognising that environmental goals must be pursued alongside economic resilience and social wellbeing.

The intersection of trade and sustainability is now at the forefront of international policy discussions. Trade continues to play a crucial role in balancing supply and demand, promoting innovation, and facilitating the efficient allocation of resources across borders. The emergence of new trade measures intended to improve sustainability — such as carbon border adjustments and deforestation-free regulations — can shape how sustainability is defined and delivered.

The **International Trade and Sustainable Agriculture Symposium**, co-hosted by the Australian Farm Institute (AFI) and the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF), provides a unique opportunity for policymakers, researchers and industry leaders from across the Indo-Pacific to examine how agricultural trade and sustainability goals can be aligned for mutual benefit. This discussion paper accompanies that event, and aims to prompt critical reflection on three themes:

- **why** trade matters for agricultural sustainability;
- **how** collective management and trust can improve outcomes; and
- **what** actions and collaborations are needed to put sustainable productivity into practice.

## Why trade matters for agricultural sustainability

*Intersections of trade policy and sustainability goals*

Trade is a key enabler of sustainability. Trade can move food from surplus to deficit regions, improve resource efficiency, and spread innovation and technology. By linking producers to diverse markets, trade encourages specialisation according to comparative advantage and supports the global allocation of scarce natural resources. However, as sustainability measures become embedded within trade policies, their effects on production systems are increasingly complex and can lead to unintended negative consequences.

Freer trade can enhance sustainability by allowing production to occur where resources are used most efficiently. By aligning production with comparative advantage, trade reduces duplication and overall input use, supporting both economic and environmental efficiency. Open markets also facilitate the diffusion of sustainable technologies and practices, enabling countries to benefit from innovation and investment that might otherwise remain confined within national borders.

Non-tariff measures (NTMs) are one mechanism used to embed sustainability within trade policy. NTMs, such as deforestation bans, carbon labelling, and environmental due diligence requirements, seek to promote environmental responsibility and enhance consumer confidence. However, NTMs may also create unintended trade barriers or compliance burdens — particularly for smaller or developing economies. Data from the World Trade Organization and the UN Conference on Trade and Development indicate that the number of NTMs affecting agricultural commodities has multiplied in recent years, and continues to rise. This places real burden on farmers around the world. For example, recent ABARES analysis found that by 2022, the cumulative effect of these measures on Australian agricultural exports was equivalent to an average 19 per cent tariff.

Policies that seek to influence farming practices through trade must be designed with consideration for potential unintended consequences. For example, prescriptive production rules could penalise producers in regions with different geography, climate and landscape features. Conversely, policies that promote precision agriculture, sustainable intensification, and market access for verified low-emission products could align economic incentives with sustainability outcomes - where appropriately designed and implemented.

As global sustainability measures evolve, such policies must remain evidence-based and outcomes-focused to support rather than constrain producers across diverse contexts. Sustainability measures must also be implemented in ways that are practical and proportionate. A proliferation of individual schemes and requirements across jurisdictions risks creating a fragmented regulatory landscape of overlapping standards and compliance regimes. This can undermine trade efficiency, add unnecessary cost and complexity, and place disproportionate burdens on producers and exporters — particularly in developing or smaller economies. Further, greater international coordination and mutual recognition or alignment of sustainability frameworks could reduce duplication, support inclusive and trade-compatible sustainability outcomes, and help ensure that policies remain coherent, efficient and effective across borders.

Australia's experience demonstrates the value of flexible, market-oriented policy. Decades of openness to trade have strengthened the resilience and competitiveness of its agricultural industries. Industry consolidation and technology adoption have also facilitated environmental sustainability outcomes through cost efficiencies and input-saving measures. Using practices such as precision agriculture and minimum till cropping, Australian farmers now provide more value from a smaller base of land than in previous decades.

**Questions for consideration:**

- *How could trade policy and agricultural sustainability policies be better aligned (or separated) to reinforce mutual goals? What are the risks and benefits of such alignment?*
- *What role can international collaboration play in promoting / enabling sustainable farming practices and technologies across different agricultural systems?*
- *How can governments design policy incentives — such as subsidies, payments for ecosystem services, or credit schemes — to balance productivity growth with environmental protection?*

## How can we collectively manage for these outcomes?

### *Policy levers and trade-offs in sustainable agri-food systems*

Government and the private sector can utilise a range of policy tools available to align trade and sustainability outcomes, including research and innovation partnerships, regulatory harmonisation, and incentives for climate-smart practices. However, these tools sometimes involve trade-offs between short-term competitiveness and long-term resilience. To encourage adoption across farming and agrifood businesses, sustainability policies should enable individual decision-making that balances cost efficiency and economic resilience with reduced impact on natural resources.

Prescriptive policy approaches — i.e. where specific methods are mandated — can improve sustainability in one region but prove counterproductive elsewhere. For example, banning tillage to protect soil carbon may deliver benefits in temperate zones but increase pest and disease pressures in tropical or high-rainfall environments. Prescribed practices are often used as proxies for sustainability outcomes as they are easier to measure and manage.

Outcomes-based policy frameworks, by contrast, define the desired results (such as lower emissions or improved soil health) and allow for flexibility in how the outcomes are achieved. While this approach enables producers to use practices most suitable to their local conditions rather than undertaking a prescribed activity, outcomes-based policies are often hard to measure and assess.

Striking an appropriate balance in trade and sustainability frameworks requires both sound evidence and shared understanding across countries of what "sustainability" means in practice.

**Questions for consideration:**

- *How can countries balance prescriptive and outcomes-based policy approaches to ensure both accountability and flexibility in achieving sustainability goals?*
- *What types of evidence or data are most important to support sound, science-based decision-making in agricultural trade and environmental policy?*
- *How can international collaboration build alignment across sustainability measures while respecting national differences in production systems and development priorities?*

### *Building trust, identifying shared values*

Trust is the foundation of international cooperation. In agricultural trade, it underpins consumer confidence, market access and investment flows. Building trust requires transparency, mutual recognition, and shared values around food security, fairness and environmental stewardship. For the Indo-Pacific region, where diversity of systems and cultures is both a challenge and a strength, fostering this trust is essential to sustaining open and resilient markets.

Shared principles provide a common framework for dialogue and collaborative knowledge-sharing which considers the complexity of regional situations and priorities. To be effective, shared principles for sustainable agricultural trade should recognise the importance of science-based assessments which consider context-specific best practices.

Global examples of the 'shared values' approach include the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Principles for Achieving Food Security Through Sustainable Agri-Food Systems and the UN Sustainable Development Goals. This approach is also gaining traction internationally through collaborative government-industry initiatives such as Canada's Living Labs, the BIMP-EAGA initiative (Brunei Darussalam–Indonesia–Malaysia–Philippines East ASEAN Growth Area), AgriZero$^{NZ}$ (New Zealand), the Zero Net Emissions Agriculture CRC (Australia) and the Australian Agriculture Sustainability Framework (AASF).

Shared principles affirm that there is no one-size-fits-all approach to agricultural transformation, and that food security depends not only on production but also on equitable access and stability across the supply chain. In this way, shared principles turn diversity into a source of strength, building the trust essential for resilient and sustainable agricultural trade.

**Questions for consideration:**

- *What values or principles in your region take the highest priority regarding sustainable agriculture and trade?*
- *How can government and the private sector build trust and demonstrate transparency in sustainability measures?*
- *What practical mechanisms (e.g. mutual recognition, data sharing, or joint verification) could help strengthen trust between trading partners?*
- *Who is responsible for building and maintaining trust in supply chains and across borders?*

### *Developing evidence-based metrics*

The credibility of sustainability claims depends on robust, transparent evidence. Developing metrics that capture environmental, social and economic dimensions — and that are comparable across jurisdictions — is crucial to maintaining credibility in global markets. Evidence-based systems can reduce compliance costs, prevent sustainability from becoming a de facto trade barrier, and help direct investment toward genuine improvements in practice.

Evidence-based systems promote measurement of sustainability outcomes — such as improved soil carbon, biodiversity protection or social resilience — rather than prescribing uniform practices. Emerging international examples illustrate how shared measurement frameworks can strengthen the evidence base for sustainable agri-food systems. Canada's National Agrifood Sustainability Index offers a national-level model for tracking progress across environmental, economic and social dimensions, providing transparent data to inform both policy and market decisions. Similarly, the Global Farm Metric, developed by the Sustainable Food Trust, demonstrates how consistent on-farm indicators can align with international sustainability goals while remaining adaptable to local conditions.

These initiatives show how coordinated, evidence-based measurement can enhance credibility, comparability and collaboration across borders; however, continued international collaboration will be vital to refining and aligning these approaches.

**Questions for consideration:**

- *What metrics offer the best opportunity in your region to progress an outcomes-based approach to policies which support agricultural sustainability?*
- *What existing systems are best placed to maintain and monitor registers of agricultural sustainability indicators?*

## What actions are underway – and what else is needed

*Exploring policy approaches in the Indo-Pacific*

The Indo-Pacific region is home to diverse agricultural systems, ranging from highly intensive or large-scale industries to smallholder and subsistence farming. This diversity requires different policy approaches to balance unique productivity, environmental protection, and social outcomes in a country or region. For example, while some nations prioritise regulatory frameworks and compliance-based mechanisms, others focus on voluntary standards, market incentives, or community-led initiatives.

Across the Indo-Pacific, governments are integrating sustainability into policy through mechanisms such as the APEC and ASEAN initiatives. Translating these commitments into practical outcomes depends on strong partnerships between research institutions, producer organisations and government agencies. Such collaboration helps align science, policy and farm practice to support climate adaptation, food security and rural livelihoods.

For example, the BIMP-EAGA Vision 2025 and emerging frameworks under APEC emphasise the importance of cooperation between farmers, scientists and policymakers. In Australia, the AASF aims to articulate sustainability outcomes in a way that is credible to international markets while remaining relevant to local conditions, reflecting a combined view of industry and government focus areas.

Dialogue between the public and private sector can also help to achieve sustainability outcomes. Corporations are integrating sustainability requirements into supply chains, while governments are exploring mutual recognition of standards. However, more work is needed to ensure that private-sector initiatives complement rather than complicate efforts to build coherent, trade-friendly sustainability systems.

**Questions for consideration:**

- *What country- or region-specific policy approaches to sustainable agriculture have proven most effective?*
- *How can Indo-Pacific countries better share lessons and coordinate sustainability frameworks to support trade?*
- *What barriers (institutional, financial, social or technical) limit the adoption of sustainable agricultural practices, and how might regional cooperation address them?*

*Putting sustainable productivity into practice*

The test of any policy is ultimately its impact on the ground. Sustainable productivity — producing more with fewer environmental and social costs — requires investment in research, innovation and capacity building. It also depends on market signals that reward genuine improvements in sustainability rather than compliance with narrow criteria.

Farmers and agribusinesses are demonstrating leadership by adopting practices such as precision agriculture, regenerative land management, and integrated pest and nutrient systems. These approaches can enhance resource efficiency while maintaining or improving output; yet the scalability of these solutions depends on access to finance, data, skills, and supportive policy environments.

Governments and the private sector can accelerate progress towards sustainable productivity by aligning incentives, providing extension services, and fostering research partnerships that bridge the gap between innovation and adoption. Sharing technology, harmonising sustainability metrics, and developing regional centres of excellence can help countries leverage collective knowledge and investment.

Embedding these kinds of approaches within trade frameworks can also reward environmentally responsible production and create new market opportunities. Sustainable productivity, in this sense, becomes both an environmental and economic strategy — one that strengthens food security and competitiveness across the Indo-Pacific.

**Questions for consideration:**

- *What does "sustainable productivity" mean in your region's agricultural context, and how is it measured?*
- *Which technologies, practices, or policies have most effectively improved productivity while reducing environmental impact?*
- *How can trade and regional cooperation help scale up innovations that deliver both economic and environmental benefits?*

## Concluding thoughts

Trade and sustainability are interdependent drivers of agricultural resilience. Ensuring that sustainability measures are evidence-based, outcomes-focused and trade-compatible will allow Indo-Pacific nations to achieve growth that is both environmentally responsible and economically inclusive.

The discussions in Brisbane aim to identify practical steps and shared priorities to shape the next generation of trade and sustainability policy — one that keeps farmers at the centre of solutions and sustains agriculture's vital contribution to global food security.

# Climate change and agriculture in New Zealand

*Ministry for Primary Industries - Manatū Ahu Matua*

## Estimating on-farm GHG emissions in New Zealand

### *Why standardise?*

- **Farmers |** Build confidence – no longer 10+ different results; reduce compliance burden; and access to new tools.
- **Processors & Financial Services |** Build confidence – a government backed, highly transparent method; and a reduced compliance burden
- **NZ inc |** Facilitate trade & compliance with GHG reporting obligations; and build trust and confidence in any VCM or incentive scheme.

### *Implementation approach*

- December 2024 – MPI released an open-source method as a Technical Paper and code on Github. The method is in tight alignment with New Zealand's national GHG inventory.
- May 2025 – Collaboration with Bioeconomy Science Institute (AgResearch) and its processor-facing Life Cycle Assessment service, and the independent Ag Emissions Centre.
- October 2025 – Bioeconomy Science Institute launches its agritech-facing API service. Case for Adoption, Removing Barriers to Adoption, API Documentation
- October 2025 – Free webtool using the API service released On-farm emissions calculator
- Next steps – Annual update cycle, the next version including new mitigating technologies.

## Environmental inhibitors

Climate change and environmental pressures are creating significant global challenges for agrifood systems to sustainably feed an ever-growing population. Against this backdrop, there are growing initiatives across the world involving environmental inhibitors to mitigate the impact of agriculture on the environment. Typically, environmental inhibitors are applied to the land, feed or directly to animals to reduce the production of greenhouse gases (such as methane) or to reduce the release of soluble nitrogen into waterways or aquifers. As the world recognises the importance of these substances in advancing broader environmental and sustainability goals, there are clear moves to review and strengthen regulatory frameworks governing use of environmental inhibitors.

Codex, the relevant international standards body for food safety and fair trade, is well placed to provide the enabling environment for using inhibitors. This includes through standards and guidelines that address any food safety and trade issues, while supporting the uptake and implementation of policies and programmes that address broader climate change, environment and sustainability goals. The work of Codex is more important than ever in the context of growing international food trade and the need to ensure foods traded across borders are safe and not subjected to unjustified barriers to trade.

In late 2023, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) released its foresight study of Food safety implications from the use of environmental inhibitors in agrifood systems. This report represented a significant contribution towards raising awareness about the importance of environmental inhibitors to advance global food security and sustainable development goals.

- *Further details can be found here:* **65070-Environmental-inhibitors-Policy-brief-Codex**

# Policy frameworks for strengthening the sustainability of agri-food global value chains

*Sunghun Lim*

*A special issue of* Food Policy *Vol. 127 (August 2024) - edited by* ***Titus Awokuse, Sunghun Lim, Fabio Santeramo****, and* ***Sandro Steinbach*** *- invited research papers that contribute to our understanding of the complex relationships between agri-food value chains, trade, domestic and international policies, and global value chains (GVCs). Recent socioeconomic and political events (e.g., COVID-19, Russia-Ukraine War) challenge conventional wisdom regarding the structure and importance of agri-food GVCs, raising the need for new research. The transformation of agri-food GVCs is necessary for addressing some of the global challenges identified in the UN Sustainable Development Goals.*

## Abstract

Agri-food global value chains (GVCs) have transformed food production and trade, fostering efficiency and specialization across international borders and also introducing new challenges. This paper synthesizes insights from a special issue focused on agri-food GVCs, addressing four critical areas essential for enhancing the resilience and sustainability of these chains. We explore how trade connections and specialization can drive economic growth, emphasizing the importance of GVC integration. We also examine the role of transportation and infrastructure in ensuring global trade efficiency, highlighting the need for strategic investments to support robust supply chains. Additionally, we assess the impact of trade policies on sustainability, market disruptions, and overall efficiency, underscoring the importance of regulatory frameworks that promote both economic and environmental goals. Finally, we consider the implications of domestic and trade policies on welfare and equity, particularly in developing regions where inclusive growth remains a pressing concern. By identifying these essential areas for robust policy frameworks, this paper provides actionable insights for enhancing the resilience and sustainability of the global food system, which can inform policies that enhance the benefits of agri-food GVC integration while mitigating their risks.

- Full article: https://www.farminstitute.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2025/11/FP_2024_TLFS.pdf

*Additional papers from Sunghun Lim:*

- **Global Agricultural Value Chains and Structural Transformation**: https://www.farminstitute.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2025/11/02_Antras-Risks_9780226829227_1stPages_ch2_Watermark.pdf
- **Understanding firm networks in global agricultural value chains**: https://www.farminstitute.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2025/11/Beck_Lim_Taglioni-FP_2024.pdf
- **Tariffs, agricultural subsidies, and the 2020 US presidential election**: https://www.farminstitute.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2025/11/Choi_Lim-AJAE_2022.pdf

# Chile's Path Toward Sustainable Agri-Food Systems:
## Policy and Market Approaches

*María José Pizarro Álvarez, Oficina de Estudios y Políticas Agrarias (ODEPA) - Ministerio de Agricultura*

### 1. Sustainability and Food Sovereignty as National Priorities

Sustainability and Food Sovereignty as National Priorities:

- The Agri-Food Sustainability Strategy (2020–2030), defines a long-term vision for the sector — to make sustainability a defining attribute of Chilean agri-food products in domestic and international markets. It sets the basis for integrating environmental, economic, and social dimensions into public instruments and encourages innovation, equity, and climate resilience across all regions.
- The National Strategy for Sovereignty and Food Security (ENSSA), aims to strengthen the natural and cultural foundations of Chile's food systems — safeguarding soil, water, biodiversity, traditional knowledge, and local markets. Rather than limiting trade, ENSSA promotes a form of food sovereignty that reinforces national productive capacities and territorial resilience within an open, interconnected agri-food economy.

Together, these strategies place sustainability at the core of public policy, competitiveness, and territorial equity, promoting a transition that connects farmers, markets, and consumers in building a more resilient and inclusive food system.

### 2. From Strategies to Action: Complementary Approaches

To translate these frameworks into practice, Chile has advanced a set of initiatives that operate at different levels of the agri-food system — from production incentives to market transformation.
This dual approach recognises that sustainability requires both enabling farmers to adopt sustainable practices and aligning entire value chains around shared sustainability goals.

Two key initiatives illustrate these complementary pathways:

- Chile Origen Consciente (ChOC – Chile Conscious Origin) and
- the System of Incentives for Sustainable Soil Management (SIGESS).

### 3. Market Example: Chile Conscious Origin – Building Value and Trust Across the Chain

Chile Conscious Origin (ChOC) is a public–private initiative led by the Ministry of Agriculture through ODEPA. It creates a framework of certifiable sustainability standards for agri-food sectors, co-developed with producer associations and validated by the Chilean Agency for Sustainability and Climate Change.

The program enables producers, processors, and exporters to measure, improve, and communicate their sustainability performance across environmental, social, and economic dimensions. It has been successfully implemented in sectors such as dairy, pork, poultry, and dried plums, with new chains currently under development.

In the dairy sector, for example, over 100 certified producers have achieved better purchasing conditions from processing plants, with some receiving price premiums that reflect verified sustainable production. Since 2025, certified products have begun displaying the ChOC seal on retail packaging, allowing consumers to identify products that meet Chile's sustainability standards.

By promoting transparency and traceability across the value chain, ChOC strengthens Chile's position as a trusted supplier of sustainable agri-food products, aligning private incentives with national sustainability goals.

## 4. Policy Example: SIGESS – Incentives for Sustainable Soil Management

The System of Incentives for Sustainable Soil Management (SIGESS) represents Chile's new policy framework to promote sustainable soil management through production-side incentives.
Currently under discussion in Congress, SIGESS will modernise Chile's approach to land stewardship by supporting farmers in adopting practices that both improve soil health and enhance productivity.

Its instruments include:

- Incentives to implement sustainable practices such as cover crops, reduced tillage, and organic amendments;
- Training and technical assistance to strengthen local capacities and knowledge exchange; and
- A community fund for collective actions that deliver environmental benefits beyond the farm level.

The law and its forthcoming regulation are being developed based on evidence from past impact evaluations, international benchmarks, and extensive technical studies.
Practices demonstrating positive environmental and productive impacts on soil will be eligible for incentives, ensuring that the program drives measurable improvements in land quality, ecosystem services, and resilience to climate change.

By shifting from soil recovery to sustainable management, SIGESS reflects a systemic approach to protecting Chile's productive base — ensuring that farmers today can produce food while safeguarding the soils for future generations.

## 5. Shared Vision

Chile's experience shows that sustainability in agriculture cannot rely on a single policy lever. It requires a coherent set of instruments that operate across multiple levels — enabling farmers to make sustainable choices, while ensuring that markets recognise and reward those efforts.

Through SIGESS, Chile is advancing a policy framework that creates the enabling conditions for sustainable production — mobilising public resources to protect the soil as a national heritage and a foundation for future productivity.

Through ChOC, it complements this with a market-oriented approach — aligning private incentives, transparency, and consumer trust with the same sustainability goals.

Together, these initiatives demonstrate a state-led, evidence-based approach to agricultural sustainability: one that combines incentives, standards, and cooperation between government, producers, and markets.

This integrated vision is not only about producing differently, but about governing differently — building bridges between competitiveness and stewardship, between farmers and consumers, and between domestic priorities and international cooperation.

That is the spirit in which Chile approaches its sustainability agenda, and the perspective it seeks to contribute to the dialogue in Brisbane.

# Australian Agricultural Sustainability Framework

## Sustainability is our Story

**The Australian Agricultural Sustainability Framework (AASF) is an industry initiative, led by the National Farmers' Federation (NFF), with support from the Australian Government.** It provides a common language to describe sustainability in Australian agriculture and supports the industry to demonstrate its sustainability story, domestically and internationally.

The AASF sets out a unified approach across the agricultural value chain, enabling farmers, supply chains, investors and policymakers to align their efforts and share trusted information about sustainability. It does not replace existing frameworks or schemes. Instead, it connects them, acting as a foundation for alignment, communication and continual improvement.


## Why the AASF matters

The AASF helps the industry respond to four major drivers of change:

- **Trade and market access.** By aligning with global frameworks like the SDGs and TNFD, the AASF helps demonstrate Australia's sustainability credentials in international markets.
- **Increasing ESG demand within supply chains.** The AASF provides a cross-sectoral nationally consistent framework that reduces duplication and eases ESG reporting burden for farmers and supply chain actors.
- **The need for principles-based, outcome-focused solutions.** The AASF promotes Australia's principles-based approach to sustainability, focusing on real-world outcomes rather than prescriptive rules.
- **Finance sector's expectations.** The AASF enables agriculture to meet emerging requirements for sustainable finance and supports investment in nature-positive agriculture.

## The AASF

**Does not** create an alternative sustainability scheme, compliance program or certification scheme.

**Does not** seek to replace or direct existing commodity-based frameworks and schemes.

**Does** seek to create outcomes-based Principles and Criteria supported by broad, verified Indicators, for the benefit of the Australian agricultural industry.

**Brings** coherence, confidence and clarity to agricultural sustainability efforts.

### Industry-led, collaborative development

The development of the AASF is supported by a Community of Practice (CoP) encompassing interests from across the industry, the supply chain, research fields, governments and environmental organisations.

With a growing population in excess of 400 members, the AASF CoP brings together stakeholders to connect, collaborate and contribute to Australian agriculture's collective sustainability narrative. Importantly, the AASF CoP enables cross-sectoral coordination on shared challenges.

www.aasf.org.au

National Farmers Federation | Australian Agricultural Sustainability Framework

Australian Government Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

# National Soil Strategy

*Australian Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry*

## National Soil Strategy Goals:


**Goal 1: Prioritise soil health**

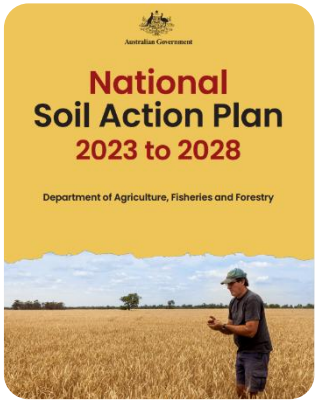
**1a:** Recognise the value of soil
**1b:** Strengthen leadership and partnerships to address national soil priorities
**1c:** Advocate the importance of soil
**1d:** Improve Australia's international leadership in soil knowledge, awareness and management

**Goal 2: Empower soil innovation and stewards**

2a: Promote soil stewardship
2b: Optimise soil productivity, sustainability and resilience
2c: Help protect and enhance Australia's environment through effective soil management
2d: Increase and maintain soil organic carbon

**Goal 3: Strengthen soil knowledge and capability**

**3a:** Increase soil knowledge for better decisions
**3b:** Measure benefits of improved soil management
**3c:** Make Australian soil information and data available
**3d:** Build and retain diverse soil expertise




## National Soil Action Plan Priority Actions:

1. Develop an **agreed national framework** to support measurement, monitoring, mapping, reporting and sharing of soil state and trend information to inform best practice management, decision-making and future investment.
2. Partners to develop a **holistic policy and strategy approach** where soil function is recognised, valued and protected for the environment, economy, food, infrastructure, health, biodiversity and communities.
3. Accelerate the adoption of **land use and management practices** that protect soil and improve soil state and trends.
4. Identify and develop the **soil workforce** and capabilities needed to meet current and future challenges for Australia and the region.

### Guiding principles of soil strategy development

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Leadership and Advocacy:**<br>• Strong leadership to champion soil health. | **Resource Utilisation:**<br>• Leverage existing resources, expertise, and experience. | **Funding Commitment:**<br>• Secure and allocate necessary funding. |
| **Engagement and Ownership:**<br>• Active involvement and commitment from all stakeholders. | **Collaboration and Coordination:**<br>• Foster partnerships and coordinated efforts. | **Monitoring and Evaluation:**<br>• Regular assessment to track progress and impact. |
| **Clear Roles and Responsibilities:**<br>• Defined roles for each stakeholder to ensure accountability. | **Agreed Priorities and Targets:**<br>• Establish common goals and focus areas. | **Effective Governance:**<br>• Ensure strong governance, ownership, and support beyond just the document. |

# Global Farm Metric

*Sustainable Food Trust*

The Global Farm Metric (GFM) is a holistic framework to establish a shared understanding and facilitate measurement of whole-farm sustainability.

Our mission is to drive systems change and enable farming that delivers positive outcomes for climate, nature and people. Rooted in systems thinking, the GFM brings together environmental, social and economic outcomes into a single, farmer-first framework. Whether you're working the land, shaping policy or investing in food systems, the GFM offers a common language to align goals, track progress and drive meaningful change across agriculture.

We are a collaborative initiative of the Sustainable Food Trust (SFT), a UK-based charity working to accelerate the transition to more sustainable food and farming systems. While part of the SFT family, we operate with a degree of independence to create a common language and focus on specific tools, partnerships and practical applications.

Our work is supported through donations and collaboration with a wide network of contributors – including farmers, food businesses, researchers, NGOs and public bodies – and we welcome new partners who share our mission.

- **Explore the** Global Farm Metric website – find our latest trials, overview and frameworks reports, as well as example uses of the framework.
- **Watch our recent webinar launching GFM2.0** – here.
- **Prefer to listen?** – Try our 30-minute podcast version of the webinar on YouTube.
- **Sign up to the newsletter** and follow us on socials here to be the first to hear about updates and opportunities.
- **Explore the** wider work and reports of Sustainable Food Trust | A global voice for sustainable food and farming

# Agriculture and Land Sector Plan

*Australian Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry*

The Australian government has released the Net Zero Plan, guiding Australia's transition to net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050. The Net Zero Plan shows how Australia can achieve a fair and orderly transition that builds on our strengths, and ensures all Australians benefit.

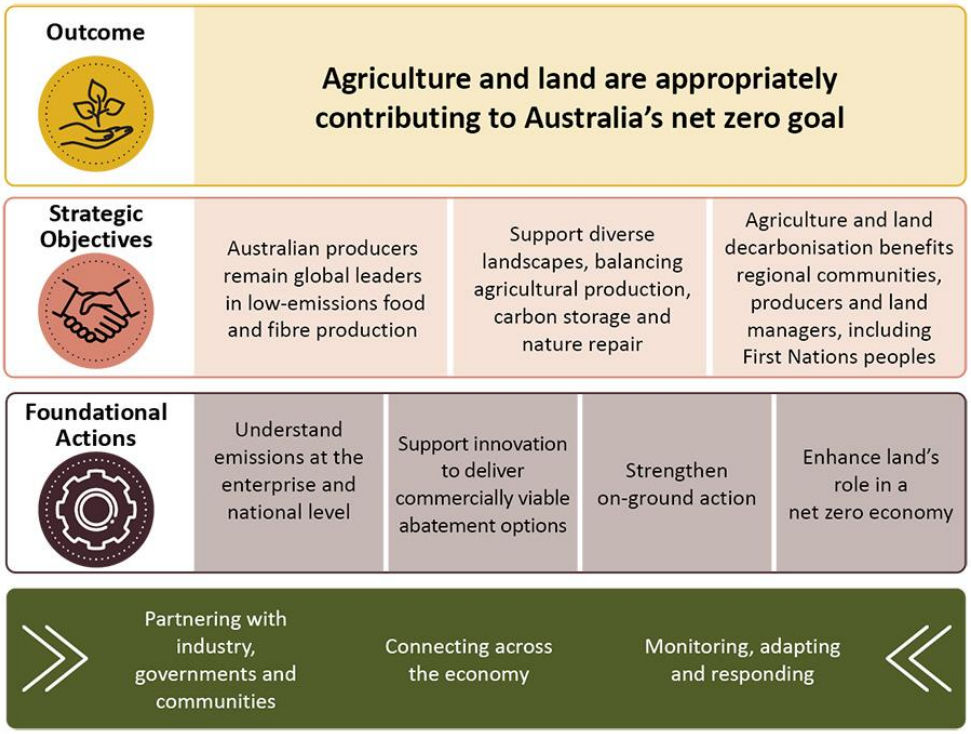
The Agriculture and Land Sector Plan is one of six sector plans supporting the Net Zero Plan. The sector plans provide more detail on Australia's transition. The Agriculture and Land Sector Plan establishes a framework for the sectors to contribute to Australia's net zero target. The framework includes three strategic objectives to underpin agriculture and land's contribution to net zero:

1. Australian producers remain global leaders in low-emissions food and fibre production.
2. We must support diverse landscapes, balancing agricultural production, carbon storage and nature repair.
3. Decarbonisation of agriculture and land must deliver real benefits for regional communities, producers and land managers, including First Nations peoples.

Four foundational areas for action will guide efforts and investment:

1. understand emissions at the enterprise and national level
2. support innovation to deliver commercially viable abatement options
3. strengthen on-ground action
4. enhance land's role in a net zero economy.

These foundational actions are supported by a commitment to partnership, strong connections across the economy and ongoing processes for monitoring, adapting and responding.



The Australian Government is already investing across the four foundational action areas, including:

- $87 million to establish the Zero Net Emissions Agriculture Cooperative Research Centre (ZNE-Ag CRC).
- $4.4 million for the department to contribute to research through the ZNE-Ag CRC.
- $27.8 million to accelerate on-ground action through upskilling of trusted advisors, farmers and land managers in the Carbon Farming Outreach Program.
- $28.7 million to improve greenhouse gas accounting from the national to the farm level.
- An additional $1 billion for the Regional Investment Corporation. This will help to boost climate resilience, productivity and support agriculture to be part of the net zero transition.

Agriculture and land have already made valuable contributions to Australia's emissions reduction goals.

Our producers are already leading the world in low-emissions food and fibre production.

Further investments in productivity and sustainability will help ensure we can maintain this position in the global transition to lower emissions.

Through collective effort and strong industry leadership we can harness opportunities from Australia's net zero transition.

- **More information:**
- Agriculture and Land Sector Plan - DAFF
- agriculture-and-land-sector-plan.pdf