

Re-Ge-NL: Accelerator for the transition to a regenerative, profitable and socially supported agricultural sector

This document shares the highlights of our Re-Ge-NL proposal for the Dutch National Growth Fund. This program strengthens the sustainable earning power of the Netherlands and supports the Dutch agro-food sector to become a leading example for the global transition to regenerative agriculture.

Introduction: Challenges for the Dutch agricultural sector

The Netherlands is known for its highly efficient agricultural sector with high production volumes per hectare and per FTE as well as low emissions and losses per kg of food produced. At the same time, this form of production requires high inputs per hectare and leads to high losses per hectare, often exceeding local and planetary environmental boundaries with negative impacts on the environment, nature and climate.

The Dutch agricultural sector therefore needs to transition towards a sustainable sector, while farmers face significant uncertainties about their future business model.

Future proof solutions:

For a resilient Dutch agricultural sector, this program will accelerate a transition towards a sector which is regenerative, profitable, and socially supported.

- To become future proof, agriculture must go hand in hand with soil improvement and restoration of soil life and nature. At the same time the added value per hectare will also have to grow significantly. This is what we define as regenerative outcomes.
- This requires diversification:
 - of crops,
 - of agricultural practices
 - and of farmer business models.
- and this requires a great deal of entrepreneurship from farmers and the value chain to overcome the barriers that currently hamper a transition to a sustainable system (Figure 1):
 - uncertainty about profitability of regenerative business models,
 - transition costs,
 - uncertainty on the outcomes of regenerative practices,
 - lack of knowledge on regenerative practices.

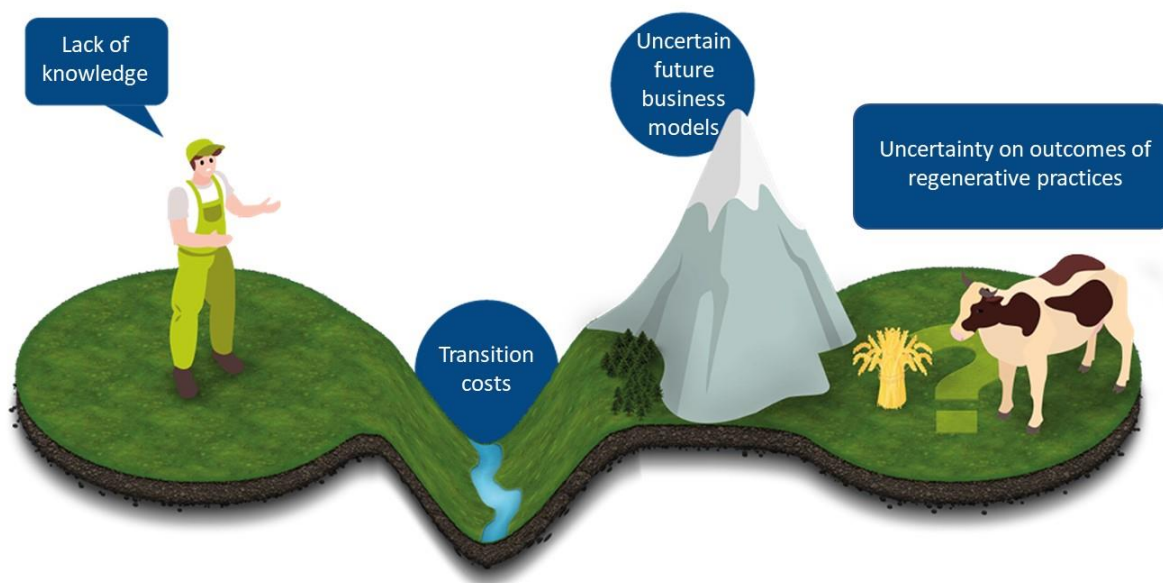


Figure 1: Barriers to the transition to regenerative agriculture

Integrated transition approach and farmer ownership:

Breaking down these barriers requires a broad consortium and an integrated approach that enables the Netherlands to lead the transition to regenerative agriculture, that is also internationally pursued by both value chain players and governments.

the Re-Ge-NL program will act as an accelerator for the envisaged transition. To our knowledge, Re-Ge-NL is one of the largest regional transition programs in European food systems. The program will be executed by players from across the food system who all want to lead in this transition by working together on future-proof solutions. Between now and 2030, Re-Ge-NL will realise these solutions along three perspectives:

- The farmer's perspective is leading:
 - In a co-creative effort with pioneering farmers, we will establish 100 showcases of regenerative and profitable farmer business models,
 - 1,000 farmers will be supported to make the transition to a profitable and regenerative farm before 2030,
 - Simultaneously, we will work on motivation, knowledge and capacity building for regenerative agriculture among at least 10,000 farmers and farmer advisors to make regenerative outcomes the new normal in the early 2030s;
- The second perspective is the regional one: we will create 5 showcases of regional development plans in which regenerative outcomes are also achieved at regional level.
- Transition at the farm and regional levels requires a change in the whole food system. This is the third perspective: valorisation models, financing models, technological innovations, and government policies that enable ample diversity of farm-level transitions and create a new vibrant and regenerative agro-food system in the coming decade

The Re-Ge-NL program consists of five action lines that will achieve the above outcomes for farmers, regions and the larger system between now and 2030. Figure 2 provides an overview of the approach.

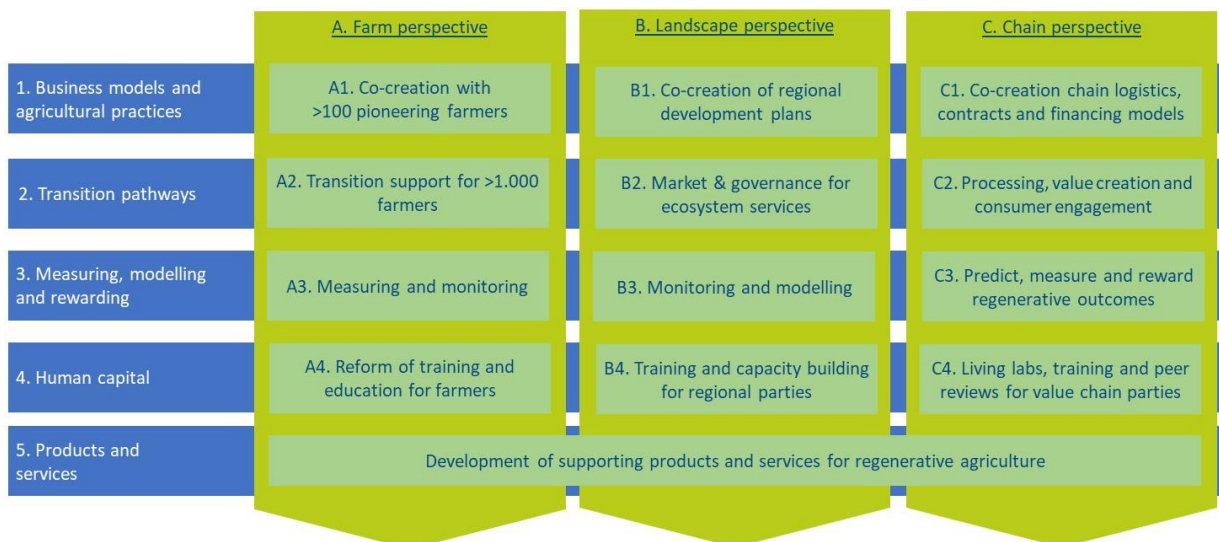


Figure 2: Design of the Re-Ge-NL programme

Key strengths of the proposal:

Four key strengths of the Re-Ge-NL proposal will make it a leading example for the global transition to regenerative agriculture:

1. Re-Ge-NL offers an integrated approach that is necessary to break the many lock-ins in the current system.
2. The proposal is not dogmatic about 1 or 2 solution pathways but allows for the diversity of context-specific solutions that are needed.
3. The farmers perspective on a viable transition to a future-proof earning model is paramount.
4. Re-Ge-NL brings together a unique consortium (see appendix) of 54 parties so far, from across the food system, all of whom want to work together to develop future-proof solutions and to avoid further prolonging the status quo.

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Consortium to date of 54 partners:

Farmers' cooperatives and networks:



Chain parties and networks of chain parties:



Financial sector:



Suppliers of knowledge and technology:



Government:



Knowledge institutes:



Other parties:

