

Re-Ge-NL: Driving force for the transition to a regenerative agricultural sector which is profitable and socially supported

With this document we would like to share with you the highlights of our Re-Ge-NL proposal to the Dutch National Growth Fund. This programme is set up to make an important contribution to the sustainable earning capacity of the Netherlands and to become a leading example for the global transition to regenerative agriculture.

Introduction: Survival of Dutch agricultural sector is at stake

Dutch agricultural land is set up for highly efficient production of a limited number of products. Grass and maize for livestock, potatoes and sugar beet are the crops that cover most of the agricultural area in the Netherlands. This has given us a strong export position but:

- production involves high inputs and emissions per hectare, often exceeding local and planetary environmental boundaries
- And the added value of primary production is very limited: typically around €2,000 per hectare in a country where the economic value of that hectare often exceeds €100,000.

This form of production on this scale is not sustainable, both economically and environmentally. This is currently highly relevant in the Netherlands due to the nitrogen crisis, but also climate and water regulations will further prevent the current way of farming to continue. Combined with the fact that the current way of farming generates an added value per hectare that is often less than 2% of the economic value of that hectare, it can be concluded that the survival of the agricultural sector in the Netherlands is at stake.

Future proof solutions:

To build a future proof agricultural sector, a transition will be needed to a sector which is profitable, environmentally regenerative 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. We call this 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 chain players to overcome the barriers as described in our Re-Ge-NL proposal and in Figure 1. The main barriers that need unlocking are:
 - Uncertainty about profitability of regenerative business models,
 - Transition costs,
 - Uncertainty on the outcomes of regenerative practices
 - Lack of knowledge on regenerative practices

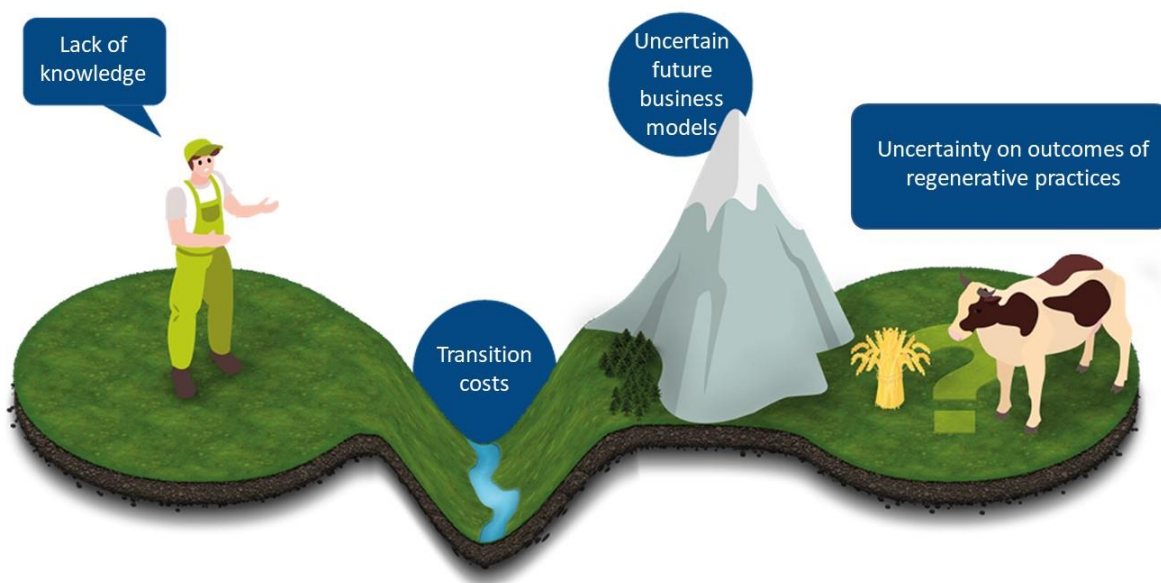


Figure 1: Barriers to the transition to regenerative agriculture

Integrated transition approach and Farmer ownership:

What is needed is a broad consortium with an integrated approach to break down these barriers and enable the Netherlands to lead the transition to regenerative agriculture that is also being pursued internationally by both value chain players and governments.

This is why we have developed the Re-Ge-NL proposal as a driving force to bring about the envisaged transition. Re-Ge-NL is to our knowledge 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:

- Leading is the farmer's perspective:
 - 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 level requires a complete food systems change. 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 early 2030s.

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.

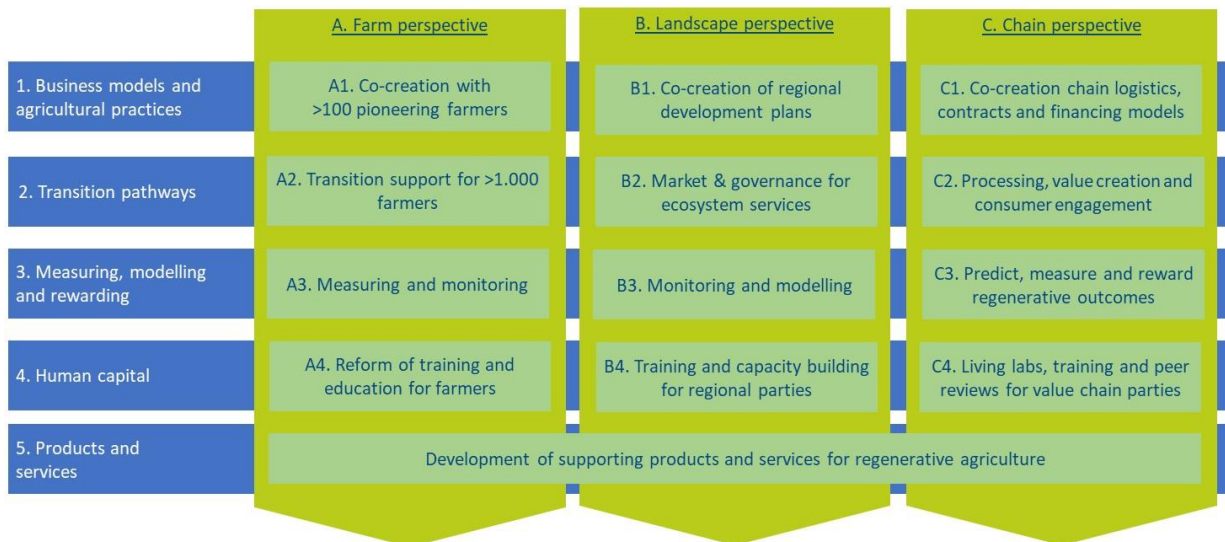


Figure 2: Design of the Re-Ge-NL programme

Concluding remarks:

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 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 farmer's 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 system, all of whom will work together in order to find future-proof solutions and to avoid further prolonging the status quo.

Appendix: Participating organisations, contact persons and budget.

Participating parties: 54

- **Farmers' cooperatives and networks:** Royal FrieslandCampina, Royal Agrifirm Group, Royal Cosun, BO Akkerbouw, Vereniging Toekomstboeren, BoerenNatuur, Wij.Land, Fonds Natuurinclusieve Streekboerderijen, CSA Netwerk Nederland, Stichting Plaatsen Nederland, Schevichoven, Farwin and Stichting Herenboeren NL
- **Chain parties and networks of chain parties:** van Rijsingen Green, MVO Nederland including cooperation with Boeren.Natuurlijk!, Foodvalley, EIT Food and The Food Collective
- **Financial sector:** Rabobank, ASR Dutch Farmland Fund, Van Lanschot Kempen - SDG Farmland Fund and Pymwymic
- **Suppliers of knowledge and technology:** Vereniging Agrarische Bedrijfsadviseurs, Lely, Royal Eijkelkamp, Agri Dataservices Bioscope BV and Fedecom
- **Government:** Ministry of LNV (Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality)
- **Knowledge institutions:** Wageningen University & Research, University of Groningen, Hanze, VHL (joint University of the North), Utrecht University, Louis Bolk Institute, University of Amsterdam, VU Amsterdam, Erasmus University Rotterdam, HAS Green Academy, AERES Hogeschool Dronten, CoE Groen, Van Hall Larenstein University of Applied Sciences, Hogeschool Inholland, TERRA (V)MBO, Innovatieplatform Groenpact, Zone College, Coöperatie Leren voor morgen and Nederlands Institute for Ecology
- **Other parties:** Top Sector Agri & Food, Fascinating, Next Food Collective i.o., Vereniging Circulair Friesland, SPARK the Movement and Institute for Agricultural Law

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Total project costs: € 250 million

Project start and end dates: 1 January 2024 to 31 December 2030