regenagri
for the health & wealth of the land
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Introduction

Regenagri is regenerative agriculture initiative aimed at supporting the transition to regenerative farming systems that increase soil organic matter, increase biodiversity, reduce GHG’s emissions, increase carbon sequestration and improve water management.

The regenagri program is designed for continuous improvement and looks holistically at the entire farming operation, considering the different management strategies and practises used, and assesses the farms regenerative impact.

Regenagri helps secure the health of the land and the wealth of those live on it.

The regenagri program is managed and developed through activities such as research (applied and fundamental), standards development, data collections, data analytics and development of methodologies.

The regenagri initiative uses the regenagri platform to assess farms, collect & analyse data and implement metrics and/or methodologies to measure the impacts of agricultural practices and land management.

The criteria are supported by practical knowledge of sustainable and regenerative farming methods gained through experience in the field as well as input from trusted advisors and industry experts, research from peer reviewed scientific papers and guidance from the governance team.

The governance team is made up of a group of organisations each expert in a specific aspect of regenerative agriculture and that wish to collaborate to develop and promote a regenerative agriculture program designed for continuous improvement of agriculture practices.

Governance Team & Steering Committee – appointment

The regenagri initiative follows formal rules for the appointment, terms of reference and operation of any committees that are involved in the development of regenagri’s standards and methodologies. Such committees shall be free from any commercial, financial and other pressures that might influence decisions.

The appointment process is outlined below.

a. Review of objectives, strategies and identification of the needs of the regenagri initiative;
b. Call out for engagement;
c. Engagement with candidate organisations;
d. Due Diligence;
e. Onboarding and legal set-up*;
f. Public announcement.

*The engagement of each member of the governance team with regenagri is regulated by a co-operation agreement. The co-operation agreement set the scope, deliverables and terms of the collaboration
Activities of the Governance Team

The activities within the regenagri program shall be conducted under the advice of the regenagri’s Steering Committee. Each member of the regenagri Steering Committee shall provide direction and advise in regards to its area of expertise (i.e., Biodiversity, GHG, Water etc).

The Steering Committee is comprised of two (2) named representatives of each party (key stakeholders/governance team members), divided in working groups. Each party shall appoint its respective representatives to the Steering Committee from time to time, and may substitute one or more of its representatives upon notice of such change to the other parties. The Steering Committee shall meet, in person or by telephone conference, not less than once each calendar quarter. At such meetings, the Steering Committee shall discuss and endeavour to resolve any issues that are acting as barriers to progress and achievement of milestones for the development of the regenagri program.

Activities include:

- Carry out research in regenerative agriculture and related aspects including, but not limited to, biodiversity, water stewardship, soil health, economics;
- Develop metrics and models for the assessment of the impact of regenerative practices;
- Support the development of methodologies for the measurement of the impacts of practices;
- Review and advise on models for the measurement of outcomes;
- Engage with stakeholders in order to align the regenagri standards with requirements and policies from both industries and the public.

Standards & methodologies development

General principles

Regenagri aims to support the transition to more sustainable agricultural practices addressing the issues of GHGs emissions, soil’s health, biodiversity, water and energy management. The regenagri program is built on a continuous improvement model. Standards and methodologies are reviewed periodically to ensure that they reflect and integrate learning, feedback from stakeholders and new science. A review and benchmarking of standards with scopes overlapping with regenagri’s is also done to avoid duplications and to identify best practices.

Steps and decision making

The development or revisions of standards and methodologies follows the process outlined below:

a. Confirmation of need for development or revisions of standard;
b. Production and approval of the Standard Development Plan*;
c. Key stakeholders’ selection and engagement;
d. Development of the draft of standard / revision (with key stakeholders, steering committee);
e. Sign off of standards draft and publication;
f. Public notice for open consultations (45 days);
g. Closure, review and summary of comments from consultations;
h. Review and sign off of the standards by the board;
i. Publication of the standards or methodologies documents.

* (The Standard development plan is a document describing goals of the standard and the reason for the development of new standard or revision of existing ones, and why the standard is needed. It includes information such as:

- Reasons for the need of the standard and goals of the standard;
- Existing standards addressing similar materials or issues;
- Proposed scope
- A risks analysis and risk mitigation for the implementation of the standard.)

The governance team shall be responsible for:

- Approval of Standard Development Plan
- Approval of the Steering Committee
- Approval of draft standards
- Approval of final standards

Regenagri reserves the right to decide on the content of standards and methodologies.

Design of standards & methodologies

Criteria

The regenagri standards shall be written to enable assessments and verifications against the requirements of the standards. The standards and methodologies shall be accompanied by implementation guidance and certification procedures documents.

The criteria of the standards shall:

- Be related to the goals and desired outcomes identified in the Standard development plan;
- Take into account other existing standards, regulations and markets’ outlook;
- Be as representative as possible of different geographies, sectors, interests;
- Globally scalable.

Standards revisions

Major revisions of the regenagri standards (the ones involving substantive changes) shall undergo the consultation process. Given the fast progress in regenerative agriculture schemes and the acceleration in data availability the regenagri standards shall undergo a major revision at least every 3 years.
Minor revisions of the regenagri standards (the one not involving substantive changes) are approved without need of public consultations.

For major revisions a transition period (from the date of publication of the revised standard) is given to certified organisation and certification bodies to implement the revised standards. Depending on the impact that the revision is expected to bring the transition period for major updates is between 6 months and 1 year.

A list of all changes to the standards and methodologies from the previous versions are available on request through the regenagri website. Changes and updates to standards are also listed in the standards documents.

Regenagri C.i.C. periodically carries out a review covering: the effectiveness of the standards, new science-based data, data on impact and uptake of the standards, sustainability landscape. The outcome from the reviews is used to identify the most pressing sustainability requirements and therefore to assess the need of standards updates.

If at any time outside the periodical review process, a need of urgent substantial revision is identified, Regenagri will carry out the standards development process (as outlines above).

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**Non-substantive changes**

- Typographical errors and minor errors or inconsistencies may be corrected, without a formal revision process, upon approval of the management of Regenagri C.i.C. and its board of directors, as required.
- The updated standards shall be clearly identified with a version number and date of revision and shall be published through the regenagri website.

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**Consultations**

Consultations with stakeholders are carried out at two different levels:

- Key stakeholders’ consultations
- Open consultations

Key stakeholders are selected based on:

- their expertise within the topics addressed by the standard;
- interest in the standard and/or level of impact by the standard;
- their geographical outreach;
- official commitment to regenerative agriculture or related goals;
- experience with standards development in similar sustainability areas.

The group of key stakeholders shall be as representative as possible, in terms of types & sizes of industries, issues addressed and geographies.
The stakeholders are informed on why the standard or its revision is needed and are provided with information on the mechanism of engagement with the process.

Open consultations are notified through channels including the regenagri website or other public communications channels. Stakeholders interested in the process are provided with instructions and timelines of consultations and can access or request the draft standards through the regenagri website.

Comments from consultations are reviewed and classified by the standard development team (made of key stakeholders, regenagri steering committee and regenagri). All comments from the consultation are compiled, classified and weighted based on criteria including merit, applicability, technical relevance, implementation, industry and public interest, economic impact. A summary of the comments is provided to the stakeholders that submitted the comments.

For more information on the regenagri’s standards setting procedures please contact us at info@regenagri.org.