

# Peanuts

## The Regenerative Peanut

Peanuts stand out as a crop with remarkable regenerative properties, thanks to their origins in the dry, harsh environments of Peru. The evolutionary journey of peanuts has endowed them with several key traits that make them highly efficient in utilizing resources and contributing to sustainable agriculture. These traits passed down from their wild ancestors, allow modern peanuts to thrive in a variety of conditions while promoting soil health and ecological balance.

#### **Economic Foundations**

Early Peruvian civilisations, around 4200 years before the present (YBP), developed small-scale irrigation systems to cultivate crops in harsh environments. By 3200 YBP, robust agricultural systems were established, supporting socio-economic development and contributing to the resilience of cultivated peanuts.

The core of peanuts' regenerative nature lies in their ancestry. The wild relatives of peanuts evolved along the eastern slopes of Peru, characterized by extremely dry desert conditions and minimal natural vegetation. These challenging environments drove the wild ancestors to develop traits that enabled their survival and growth with limited water resources. This evolutionary background has made peanuts one of the best crops for less water consumption.

#### Adaptation to Drought

The wild ancestors of peanuts developed deep root systems that allow them to access water from deeper soil layers. This adaptation, crucial for survival in arid conditions, has been inherited by modern peanut varieties, making them drought-tolerant and efficient water use.

#### Symbiotic Relationships

Ancestral peanuts established symbiotic relationships with beneficial soil microorganisms, such as Rhizobium bacteria that convert atmospheric nitrogen (N2) into ammonia (NH3), which is then used by the peanut plant for growth. This process enriches the soil with nitrogen, benefiting the peanuts and subsequent crops in a rotation system.

#### **Carbon Sequestration**

Peanuts contribute to carbon sequestration by capturing atmospheric carbon dioxide (CO2) and storing it in plant biomass and soil organic matter.





## Peanuts as a Sustainable Crop for Regenerative Farming

Peanuts became a regenerative crop due to their evolutionary history, nitrogen-fixing abilities, efficient water use, and contribution to carbon sequestration. These traits, inherited from their wild ancestors, make peanuts a resilient and sustainable choice for modern agriculture. By integrating peanuts into cropping systems, farmers can enhance soil health, reduce dependency on chemical inputs, and promote a more sustainable and regenerative agricultural ecosystem. Peanuts' ability to thrive in challenging conditions while improving soil fertility and conserving resources underscores their vital role in sustainable farming practices.



# Welcome message from Agrocrops' leading Woman Farmer

Welcome to the 2023 Sustainability Report of Agrocrops, our valued partner in peanut contract farming. Our Farmer Producer Organization, Nallavur, consists of 1000 smallholder farmers with 85% of women farmers, with 50-55% dedicated to groundnut cultivation, and many of them are women farmers.

Our partnership with Agrocrops has enhanced our capabilities, providing us with crucial market linkages, improved yields, capacity-building activities, and access to essential farming inputs, including seeds, water, and pest and nutrient management strategies.

Empowering women farmers through FPO contract farming is pivotal to boosting agricultural productivity and fostering economic independence. Women hold significant leadership roles within our FPO, including positions on the board of directors and as CEO. Beyond their work in the fields, our top management women farmers also acquire business and management skills.

Mrs. Govindama, a progressive woman farmer and director from Nallavur, Nallambur village, Mylum Block, Villupuram District, has been farming since 1990. Since 2012, she has received training in agricultural marketing, the role of a director in an FPO, groundnut farm facilitation, and integrated farming practices through organizations like MSSRF and Agrocrops. She has successfully adopted improved practices, contract farming systems, knowledge management as a farm facilitator, and natural farming techniques, drawing from various external and internal interventions. Mrs. Viji, the CEO of Nallavur Farmer Producer Company, oversees the FPO's vision, financial management, market linkage, capacity building, social governance, and advocacy.

With this welcome note, we extend our warmest regards to Agrocrops and wish them continued success in the peanut industry for many years to come.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Govindama

Nallavur FPO

# 

AGROCROPS
SUSTAINABILITY
REPORT
2023



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Our KPIs



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Net	Zero
Gri	Inde
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# Key Impact Indicators

Free Seed Distribution – HOPE Initiative

**350** 

**Number of Farmers** Supported Up to



Benefits per Farmer



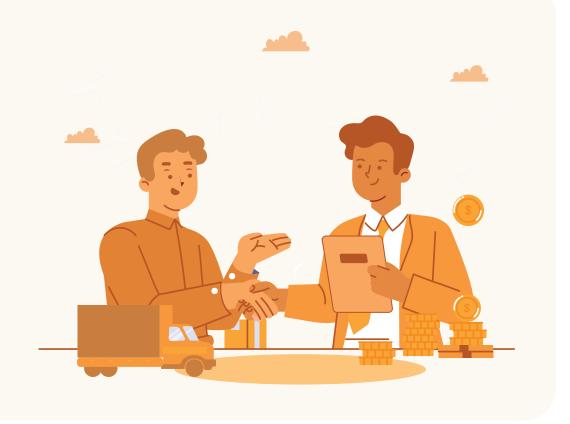
#### Fairtrade

### 68 metric tons

Cargo Purchased in 2023

## \$110 per ton

**Premium Shared** 



#### **FPO Engagement**

19,399 **Total Members** 





6,774



31,182 **Total Acres Covered** 



Andhra Pradesh

Geographical Coverage



US\$180k

**Women Members** 



Tamil Nadu and



**FPO Procurement in 2023** 

#### Farmers training Programs

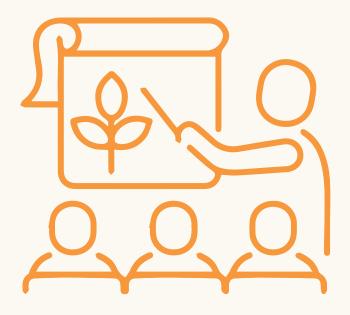
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#### **Programs Conducted, Covering Topics** such as:

- Agri-clinics
- Integrated Pest Management (IPM)
- Seed Production
- Good Agricultural Practices (GAP)
- Group Formation
- Organic Inputs and Preparation
- Groundnut Package of Practices (PoP)



**Farmers Benefited** 



#### **Support Provided**

#### **Bio-inputs Distributed:**

- NPK (Nitrogen, Phosphorus, Potassium)
- Fertilizers
- Farmyard Manure
- Biological Traps

#### Infrastructure Development:

- Established a common Hiring Center with Seedling Machines and Sprayers
- FPO Engagement and Development

#### **FPO Partnerships:**

Expanded from working with 2 FPOs in 2022 to 23 FPOs in 2023

#### **Additional Activities**

Participated in 25 FPO Development, Marketing Linkages, and Training Programs conducted by the Agrimarketing Department and NGOs

FPO: Farmer Producer Organization















**FPOs** 



























Clients































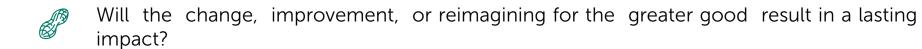
# Key Partners

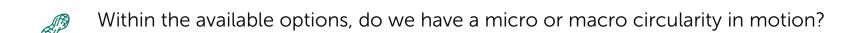
Our approach is circular, as is our partnership. In the peanut industry, we excel at connecting the dots. By playing a central role, we leverage the strengths of our partners while complementing them with our own, fostering mutuality.

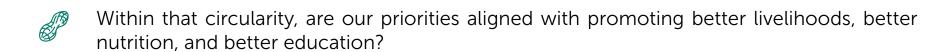
# Impact Approach

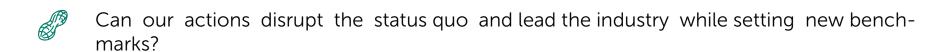
Our principles in business guide us in choosing projects, initiatives and strategies that not only create immense value but also leave a lasting impact on our ecosystem. What ignites our decision-making process? What keeps us moving forward and committed? What drives us to be pioneers in our endeavours?

Our vision and purpose to create a meaningful impact are guided by the following principles. We choose our actions based on these yardstick:









#### Through our ESG priorities we support the following SDGs:













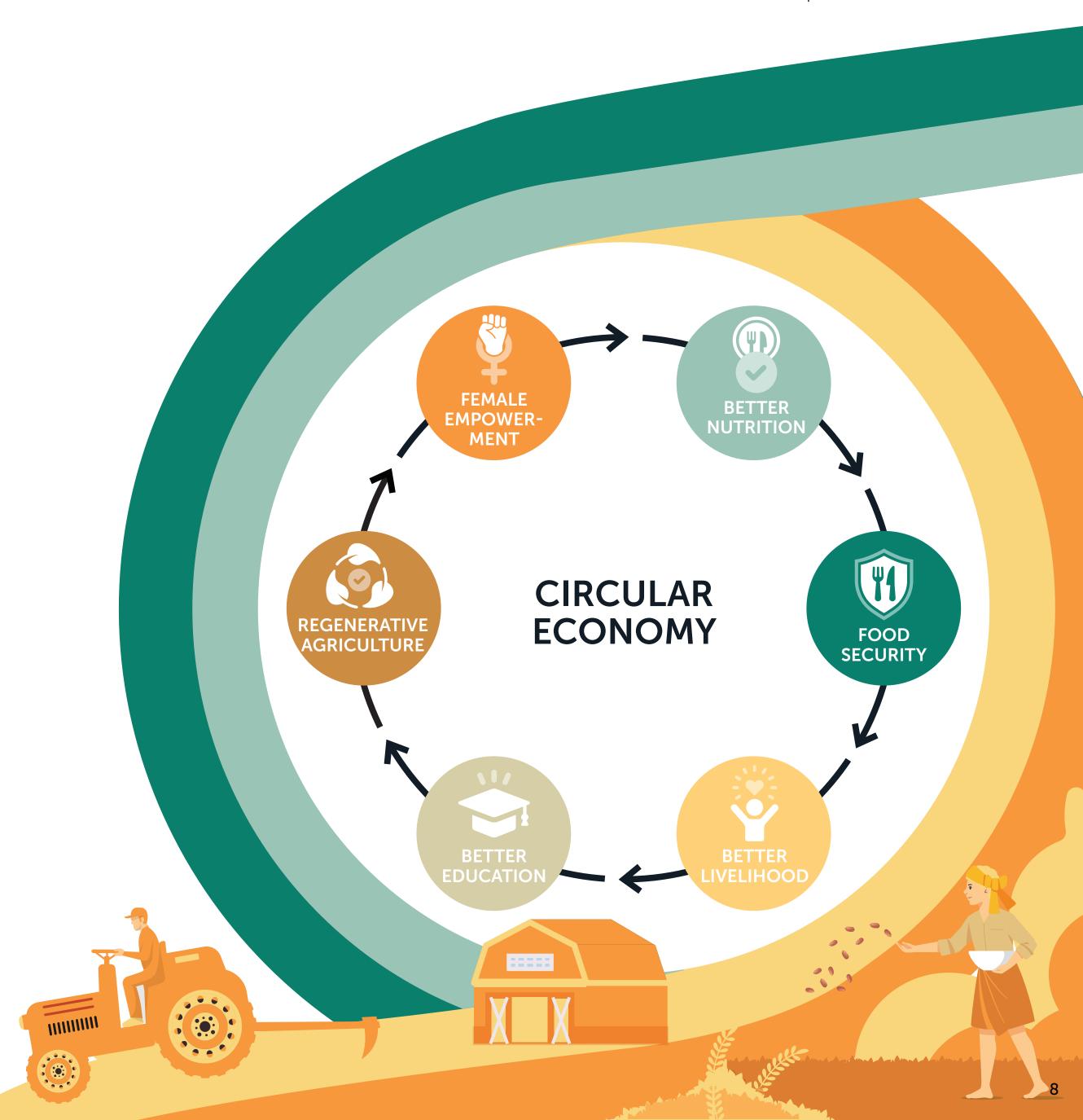














## Letter from CMD

It gives me great confidence to present Agrocrops' second Sustainability Report, showcasing our progress in this core strategy. For Agrocrops, sustainability means going beyond the status quo with innovative, disruptive and revolutionary changes that create lasting, positive impact.

We recognise our accountability to innovate, reduce our environmental impact, support our communities, and ensure the long-term sustainability of the peanut industry. This report showcases the industry's advancements in sustainable agricultural practices through our Sustainable Peanut Initiative, which has benefited 1000 farmers over the past year, and reaffirms our commitment to reshaping the future. Overall, the second sustainability report showcases Agrocrops' commitment to sustainability and continuous improvements in its global operations.

Some of our significant accomplishments in 2023 have been our dedicated focus on peanut and planet. It reflects our radical approach.

- After two years of dedicated work with over 19,399 farmers and 23 Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs), we commercialized the HOPE sales. The first commercially produced shipment was sent to one of UNICEF's manufacturers, Hilina Enriched Foods PLC in Ethiopia. We are grateful to Ms. Hilina Belete and the Nutriset Group for trusting us to supply these highly nutritious peanuts for the production of Plumpy'Nut. Once again, we have upheld our farm-to-gate strategy while creating impact across the value chain.
- Our sustainable agricultural practices expanded by 1844% to encompass over 31,182 acres in 2023. This growth is a testament to our team's strategic efforts and the willingness of our partners to collaborate with us. Sustainable practices such as crop rotation, certified seeds, and fair prices were implemented to emphasize regenerative agriculture.
- We made a major leap in our research and development efforts aimed at transforming waste into valuable resources. This initiative not only showed significant positive impacts on carbon emissions but also facilitates effective carbon sequestration.

Looking forward, we are committed to continuous enhancement. Using the momentum from this report, we will establish new goals, broaden our sustainability initiatives, and foster innovation within the peanut industry.

Our progress is made possible by the dedication of our employees, the support of our partners, the trust of our valued farmers and FPOs, and the trust of our customers and stakeholders. Together, we are crafting a future where sustainable practices propel growth and prosperity for everyone.

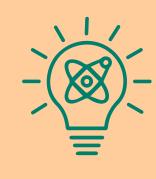
**Bhavani Saravanan**Group Chief Managing Director

# About Agrocrops

We manage global peanut origins and supply chain operations, operating in every value chains from farm to factory to consumer products.

Our research and development focuses on seed improvement, collaborating on technology development, identifying new technologies for adoption in the peanut industry, and finding solutions to address industry challenges like biowaste. Additionally, we work on enhancing product shelf life and driving new product innovations.

With 56 years of extensive peanut industry experience, we are a second-generation family business. Supported by an exceptional team, we manage global peanut origins and supply chain operations, operating in every value chains from farm to factory to consumer products.



#### **Innovation**

Our approach to innovation focuses on disrupting the norm and reengineering the status quo. For instance, we view industry waste as raw material to create something new.



#### Quality

Our quality strategy is the key driver of our business growth. Investments in technology adaptation and quality benchmarks fuel this progress.



#### Sustainability

Sustainability isn't just parallel to our business; it's integral. We focus on ESG impact, aiming for circularity while benefiting people and the planet.

Coverage of global peanut

origins in our sourcing

activities.

90% 1840% 35% 16% 3320%

Over a 1840% increase in upstream activities, including contract farming and training programs.

of the smallholder farmers we support are women.

Rise in Employee Benefits.

Increase in HOPE (High Oleic Peanut) sowing since 2022.



# Thousands of Benchmarks under a Single Standard

#### **Pursuit of Excellence**

**About Agrocrops** 

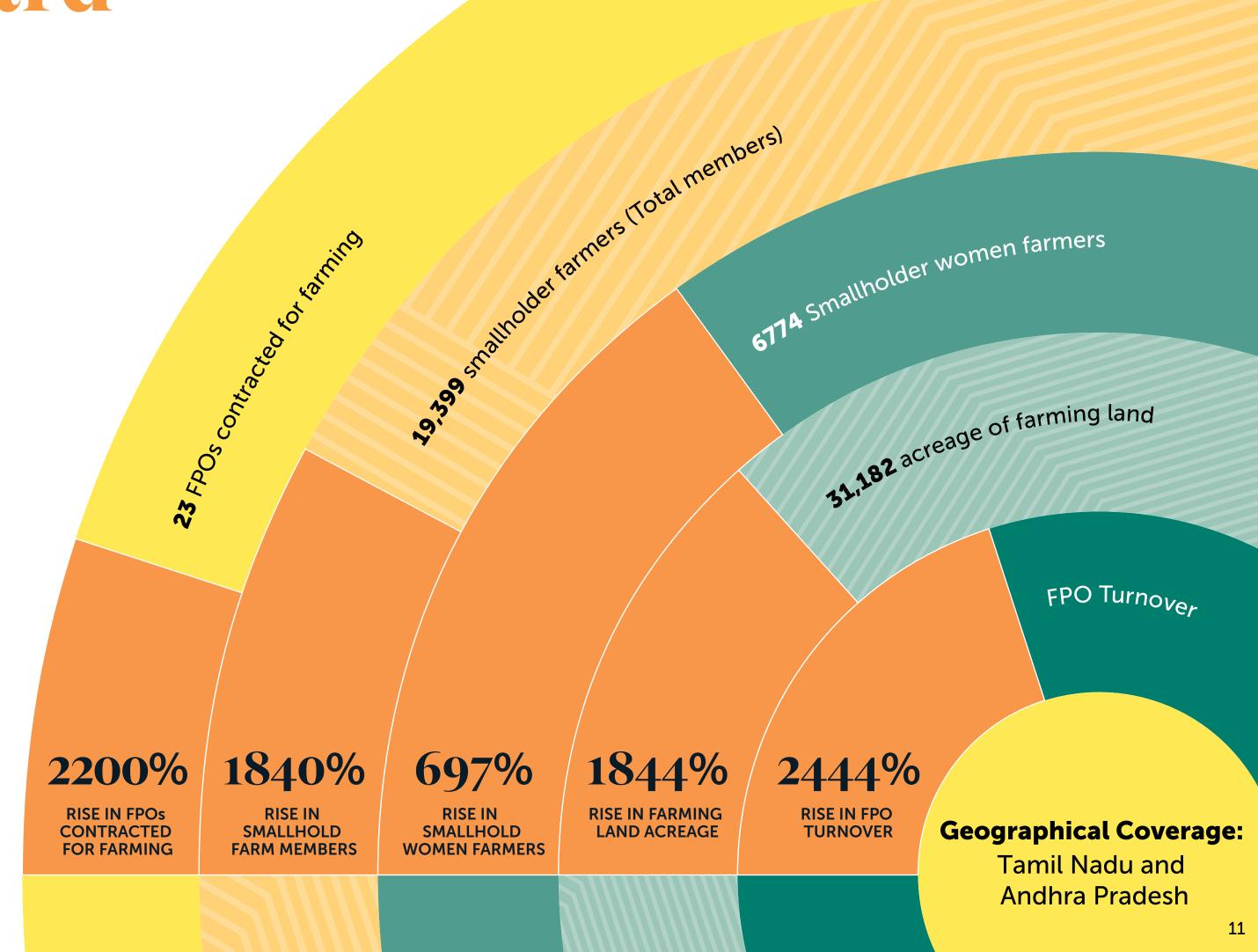
As peanut visionaries, we aim to redefine standards and benchmarks rather than just meeting them. We seek ways to achieve greatness together, believing that we rise by lifting others. These values lead our way. Agrocrops strives to transform the peanut industry for the better by relentlessly pursuing excellence in everything we do.

#### Why is Agrocrops a leader in peanut sustainability?

Originating as a trading firm with a capital of US\$23,000, Agrocrops transformed its operations through two key strategic initiatives: reengineering, Which involved Streamlining inefficient marketsystems, and integration, which entailed connecting various elements to unlock value. These strategic moves have been instrumental in shaping the company into what it is today. Our journey has taken us from trading to processing, then into farming, and ultimately into manufacturing and distribution.

In our pursuit of fostering integration, reengineering, and innovation, we remain committed to maintaining strong governance practices.

As peanut industry pioneers, Agrocrops' B2B brands establish global quality benchmarks such as Pnutking. Our primary focus is delivering value through innovation and re-engineering in an otherwise underdeveloped and under-invested industry. Our core strategy has been to create a people oriented company, re-engineer to go forward and enable quality as a growth driver.



**About Agrocrops** 

#### Our Vision

"Accelerate Business Growth through Quality, Innovation and Re-engineering of the Peanut Industry."

#### Our Mission

"As Peanut Visionaries, we're Determined to Build a better Industry for Farmers, Buyers, Distributors, Value-adders, Manufacturers, and Consumers. So that we can all be Part of an Industry that Works."





Driven by our Entrepreneurial Spirit, we're Creating new Benchmarks through our Portfolio of B2B and B2C Brands.

#### **Consumer Brands**





























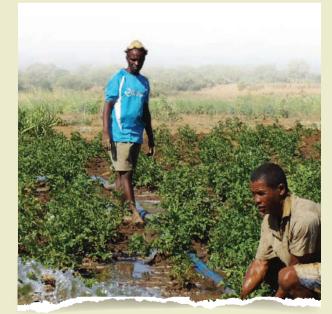
# Peanuts 2023

What shaped the global peanut industry in 2023?

## Argentinian Peanut Production and Exports Expected to Drop by 16% Due to Severe Drought

Argentina, a major supplier of peanuts to the EU, is facing a significant decline in peanut production and exports due to severe drought during the 2022/23 growing season. The Argentinian Peanut Chamber (CAM) reported a 35% drop in the peanut crop, totaling 658,000 tonnes—356,000 tonnes less than the previous season. This reduction has left Argentina with no leftover stock at the end of the season, a stark contrast to the 49,051 metric tonne surplus from the 2021/22 season. Environmental analysts have called this drought one of the worst in the past two decades, severely impacting farmers' yields.





#### Senegal's Peanut Farmers Struggle as Poor Rains Impact Harvest

Peanut farmers in Senegal are facing significant hardships due to inadequate rainfall during the current growing season. The lack of sufficient rain has led to lower crop yields, threatening the livelihoods of thousands of smallholder farmers who rely heavily on peanut farming. With peanuts being a crucial export and a staple in local diets, the reduced harvest is expected to have widespread economic and social repercussions. Farmers are calling for urgent government support and sustainable agricultural practices to mitigate the effects of climate change on future harvests.

### Family Awarded \$200K After Young Girl Suffers Severe Peanut Reaction from Contaminated Burrito

A family in Texas was awarded \$200,000 in damages after their young daughter suffered a severe allergic reaction to peanuts found in a burrito from the Tex-Mex restaurant chain Freebirds. The incident occurred in 2020 when the girl, who has a life-threatening peanut allergy, was exposed to peanuts despite the family's specific request for no peanuts in her meal. The jury found the restaurant negligent, leading to the financial award. The case highlights the importance of strict allergen protocols in the food service industry to prevent such incidents.





## Drought in the Southwest Leads to Significant Crop Losses Across the U.S.

The year-long drought in the Southwest led to a significant increase in abandoned acres and substantial yield losses for at least 40% of the Texas crop. Virginia also experienced a dry spell just before harvest, worsening the situation. Nationwide, much of the 2022 crop was affected by drought, resulting in reduced production and economic challenges for farmers across the country.

#### Nestlé Sells Peanut Allergy Drug Due to Low Market Demand

Nestlé has divested its peanut allergy drug, Palforzia, after disappointing market uptake. The pharmaceutical company, Aimmune Therapeutics, which was acquired by Nestlé in 2020, developed the drug to help children with peanut allergies build tolerance. However, Palforzia faced challenges, including high costs and complex treatment protocols, leading to lower-than-expected demand. Nestlé decided to sell the drug to Stallergenes Greer, a company specializing in allergy immunotherapy, as part of its strategy to focus on higher-performing assets in its portfolio.





### Partnership Enhances Peanut Production in Haiti Through Innovative Collaboration

A collaborative initiative led by USAID and key partners is transforming peanut farming in Haiti by improving production practices and boosting local economies. The project focuses on sustainable farming techniques, introducing improved peanut varieties, and providing farmers with necessary training and resources. The partnership aims to increase crop yields, enhance food security, and create economic opportunities for smallholder farmers in Haiti. By leveraging local knowledge and international expertise, this initiative is fostering resilience in Haiti's agricultural sector, offering a blue-print for successful agricultural development in similar regions.

# Recognitions

We are elevating our efforts to achieve global recognition and certifications, driving us to surpass industry standards and establish new benchmarks. By pushing the boundaries of excellence, we aim to set ourselves apart as leaders in quality, innovation, and sustainability on the world stage. This relentless pursuit ensures that our products and practices not only meet but exceed the expectations of international markets and regulatory bodies.



































## **Empowering Farmers through Equipment Hiring Centre**

Agrocrops has played a pivotal role in establishing an Equipment Hiring Centre for the Nallavur Farmer Producer Organization (FPO), with a focus on providing access to essential farming machinery, such as fertilizer sprayers. This initiative offers significant benefits to smallholder farmers who may not have the means to purchase expensive equipment. By facilitating easy access to these sprayers, farmers can improve their crop management and productivity, resulting in higher yields and more sustainable farming practices. This Equipment Hiring Centre underscores Agrocrops' commitment to supporting farmers with the tools they need for success.

# Standards & Certifications

Benchmarks are at the core of every action we take and every decision we make. Despite facing challenges, our values remain steadfast. The partnerships we've cultivated over the years throughout our supply chain have enabled us to uphold the highest standards of labor and human rights, worker health and safety, and to make unprecedented strides in climate action, forestry and the stewardship of natural resources. While we take pride in our progress, we understand that each year and each achievement is merely a stepping stone in our continuous pursuit of "better."

#### **Completed Certification**











#### **Work in Progress**













## NNEX

# Materiality Assessment

ESG materiality assessments are a way to define the social and environmental issues that are most important to a business and its stakeholders. It is a strategic business tool, and can help develop a well-focused ESG strategy.

We realize that the materiality assessment is the key factor to identify and prioritize sustainable aspects for our business. Our materiality assessment shapes the sustainability strategy and ensures that our efforts are concentrated on the areas which have the most beneficial impact. It also ensures that the resources are efficiently allocated and the company's sustainability efforts are aligned with stakeholder expectations. It integrates non-financial issues into reporting to present a wider picture to the stakeholders.

We conduct materiality assessment diligently every three years to align our focus on the issues with most significant impact on our business, communities and environment, as well as those that matter most to our stakeholders. As we integrate across the value-chains, our iterative approach adapts well to the rapid changes driven by our business transformation.

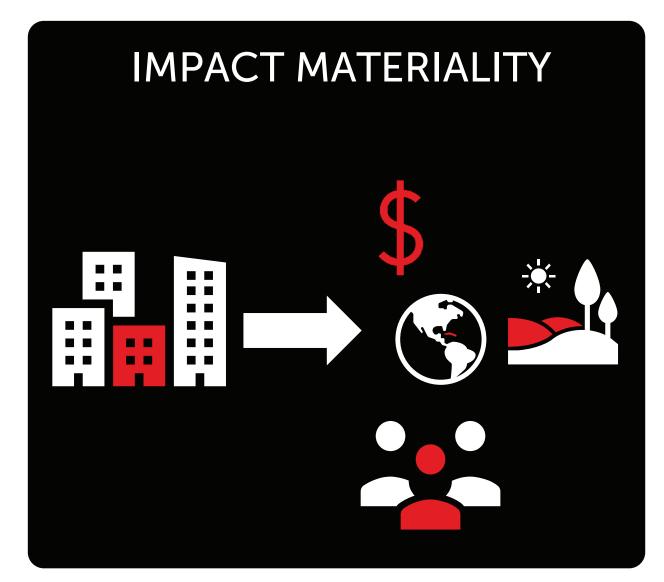
Our long-term success relies on our ability to consistently monitor and adapt to critical social, environmental, economic, political, and technological changes. Our sustainability materiality assessment incorporated a wide range of factors including external indices, whitepapers, global policies and regulatory changes. In our 2022 materiality analysis, we considered latest trends including political developments, climate disruptions, health crisis and technological innovations.

This foresight helped us to identify and address ESG topics that are poised to become increasingly significant in the coming years. By staying ahead of these evolving dynamics, we have realigned our strategies to effectively respond to emerging risks and opportunities, ensuring that our strategy remains robust and relevant in a rapidly changing world.

#### Our five step Approach to Materiality Assessment







The comprehensive assessment was designed to validate the material issues identified through a detailed survey of ESG indicators. In conducting this assessment, we ensured meticulous alignment with all GRI aspects and indicators, strictly adhering to established reporting guidelines. Beyond mere validation, this process allowed us to refine our understanding of the key issues impacting our business, ensuring that our sustainability strategy is both informed by stakeholder expectations and grounded in globally recognized standards.

Stakeholder

Medium

Medium

# ESG Materiality Matrix

The assessment results are mapped onto a materiality matrix, illustrating the level of stakeholder interest alongside the potential impact on the business. The insights from assessing significance to internal stakeholders which highlights the crucial topics are positioned along the "Y" axis. The outcomes from assessing significance to external stakeholders which indicates the areas of greater influence on the business are positioned along the "X" axis.

Workforce Welfare **Human Rights Environmental Management** Operational Health and Safety Climate Change **Customer Focus Product Stewardship Food Security** Community Welfare Water Management Sustainable Agriculture Waste Management Sustainable Corporate **Procurement** Governance

Agrocrops

Our corporate strategy is fundamentally shaped by the insights gleaned from our ESG materiality matrix, which functions as a crucial strategic tool to ensure our business objectives are closely aligned with the most significant concerns of our stakeholders and the internal priorities of the company. The matrix highlights "Workforce Welfare" as the most critical ESG issue, underscoring its unparalleled significance to both our business operations and the expectations of our stakeholders. This topic's prominence signals a clear need for us to focus intensively on the welfare, safety, and overall well-being of our workforce, which is not only essential for maintaining a motivated and productive team but also for upholding our reputation as a socially responsible organization.

In addition to "Workforce Welfare," the matrix identifies four other high-priority areas—"Human Rights," "Operational Health & Safety," "Climate Change," and "Customer Focus." These issues represent a blend of social, environmental, and governance challenges that are integral to our long-term success.

ENVIRONMENTAL

SOCIAL

Critical

GOVERNANCE



#### **Human Rights**

Human rights concerns are increasingly in the spotlight globally, and our commitment to ensuring fair labor practices and safeguarding the rights of all individuals in our supply chain is critical to maintaining stakeholder trust and avoiding reputational risks.



#### **Operational Health** & Safety

Operational health and safety is another priority that speaks directly to our responsibility to protect the health and safety of our employees, which is not only a legal obligation but also a moral imperative that can significantly impact productivity and employee satisfaction.



#### Climate Change

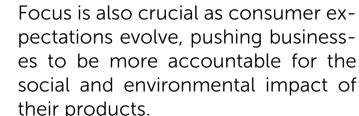
Climate change is a major environmental challenge with significant effects on our operations, supply chains, and the communities we support. It requires us to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, improve energy efficiency, and adapt our practices to deal with climate-related impacts.



#### **Customer Focus**

their products.

Additionally the matrix underscores the importance of Sustainable Agriculture, Environmental Management, and Water Management, all of which are vital to reducing our ecological footprint and ensuring the long-term availability of resources. Proper management of these areas not only supports sustainable operations but also meets growing stakeholder concerns about environmental and water related issues.



# Stakeholder Engagement

Agrocrops actively engages with stakeholders as part of our commitment to foster meaningful change and discover innovative solutions to pressing challenges. Every day, at all levels of the business, we interact with a diverse array perspectives and experiences, share our progress, and promote best practices.

Stakeholders offer valuable expertise as we develop our programs, and by collaborating with them, we can achieve a greater impact on the issues that matter to us than any individual effort could accomplish alone. Throughout the year, we proactively connect with a broad range of stakeholders and rights holders, including:







#### People

We believe that open and honest communication among team members, managers, and leadership cultivates a collaborative work environment where everyone can participate, grow, and thrive. The voices and ideas of our people drive innovation in all aspects of our work, from informing diversity initiatives to creating inclusive benefits that support employees from all backgrounds at every life stage. In addition to managers actively listening to their teams, we conduct surveys to gain insights into team members' views on key topics and provide channels for employees to express concerns. Engagement efforts also include biannual reviews, 360-degree feedback, working groups, and mentoring programs.



#### NGOs, Foundations & Academia

Engaging with and listening to NGOs, foundations, academia, and participating in multi-stakeholder initiatives and community organizations is essential for understanding our impacts and informing our work. Teams across Agrocrops interact with and leverage the expertise of external organizations. For example, our collaboration with the MSSRF foundation has provided quality training to the farmers we work with, while our engagement with ICRISAT has enabled the development of a new research agenda focused on peanut protein.



#### Investors, Banks and Creditors

We actively engage with stakeholders, including banks and other creditors, throughout the year to gain their perspectives on significant issues such as company performance and strategy, corporate governance, and environmental, social, and governance topics. This engagement allows us to better understand stakeholders' priorities and viewpoints, provides an opportunity to elaborate on our initiatives with relevant experts, and encourages constructive dialogue. We consider the feedback and insights from our stakeholder engagements as we review and refine our practices and disclosures, sharing them with our Board as appropriate. These engagements provide us with valuable input that informs the development of the Company's procedures, policies, and strategic direction.



#### Customer

We are driven by the goal of fostering the most collaborative customer relationships through our product and origination expertise in every interaction. We engage with our clients via surveys, one-on-one meetings, roundtables, and conferences. To ensure quality, we continuously monitor customer feedback, assess key drivers, and leverage analytics to enhance the customer experience. Customer feedback is shared with team members and leaders alike, ensuring that everyone understands their impact and remains focused on delivering the best possible customer experience.



#### Suppliers, Vendors, FPOs & Farmers

Whether through social dialogue and formal employee representation, workplace satisfaction surveys, anonymous hotlines, focus groups, or interviews during annual assessments, the feedback we receive directly from supplier employees is crucial in ensuring that labour and human rights are respected throughout our global supply chain. We utilise this feedback to address emerging risks, enhance rights training for supplier employees and management, and continually strengthen our Supplier Code of Conduct and Supplier Responsibility Standards. By collaborating with our suppliers, we aim to make a positive impact in the communities where we operate.





#### Government & Regulators

We engage with regulators as necessary to conduct our business and provide feedback on proposed changes to relevant rules that may impact our operations. We strive to maintain an open and ongoing dialogue with our supervisory regulators and other policymakers.

#### Competitors

We engage with competitors to foster harmony and explore collaboration on broader issues that affect the industry. In many instances, our competitors are also our suppliers, creating opportunities for mutual learning. We share best practices with our competition to benefit the industry as a whole.

# Our SDG Priorities

In 2023, we focused on expanding our impact on the smallholder farmers we collaborate with and advancing research and development in regenerative farming through carbon management. We recognise that these priorities present significant challenges but offer tremendous potential to positively impact the ecosystem we are part of.

Through waste management, we have identified opportunities to convert waste into valuable inputs for regenerative agriculture.

Our efforts with HOPE (High Oleic Peanuts) are already yielding promising results, earning recognition from both our clients and Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs). We are steadily increasing HOPE production volumes while ensuring that farmers are acknowledged for their higher yields and contribution to producing this highly nutritious peanut. In all our activities, a key focus remains the active participation of women—whether as farmers, employees, or workers.

#### Through our ESG priorities we support the following SDGs:



















#### People

We are committed to improving the livelihoods of farmers by enhancing yields and offering better pay, providing market linkages, assuring returns on their harvest, and ensuring timely procurement. A key focus is promoting gender equality among farmers and prioritizing the recruitment of female workers.

Through our WWF and HOPE projects, we create a multi-dimensional impact on the people we work with, integrating sustainability strategies that are not just one-time efforts but part of a circular economy that we are building.



#### WWW (World Wide Waste)



WWF (Women Work Force/Farmer)



#### Regenerative Agriculture



#### **Planet**

Our focus on the planet goes beyond measuring carbon emissions of Scope 1, 2, and 3. It extends into a future where we regenerate, renew, and reengineer. Our approach is distinct—we address the root of the problem rather than settling for small wins. What we create must endure and benefit not just Agrocrops but the broader ecosystem.

Through economic and scientific waste management studies, we have found solutions to address peanut waste (husk), which can drive regenerative farming, enhance carbon capture, and support carbon sequestration. By looking inward for solutions, we uncover abundant opportunities for lasting impact.



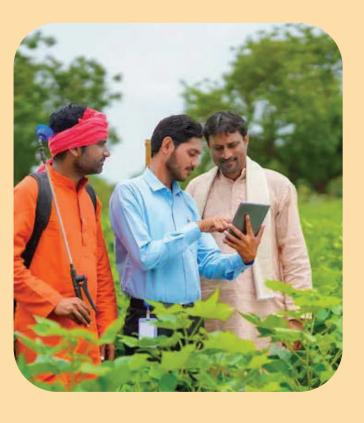
#### Carbon Sequestration



#### HOPE (High Oleic Peanuts)



#### Edufarm

















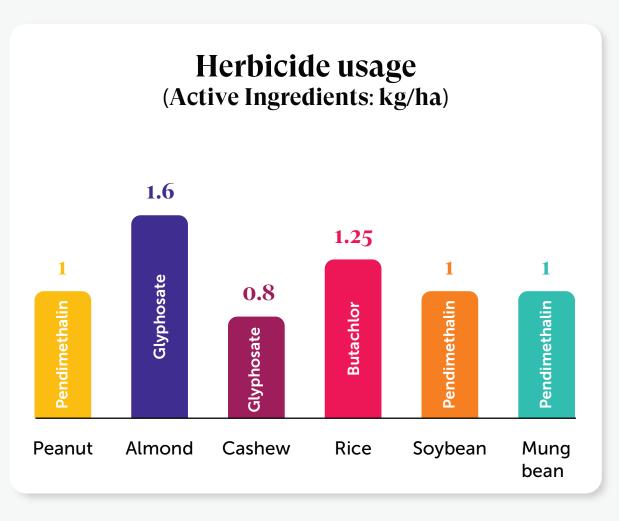


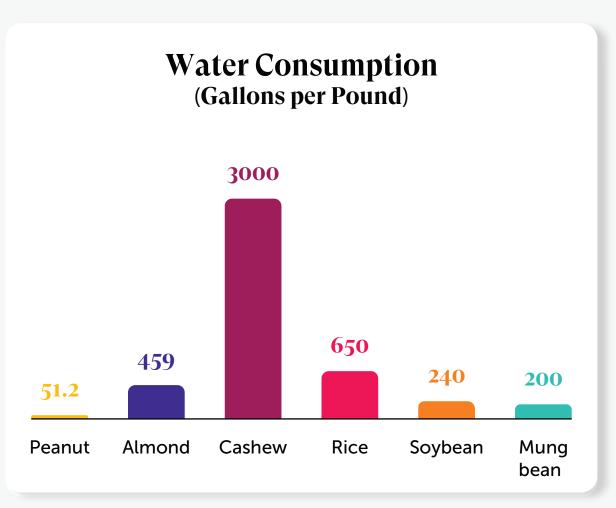


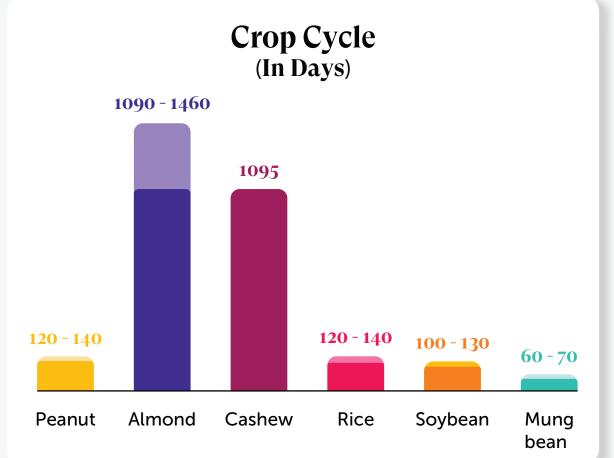


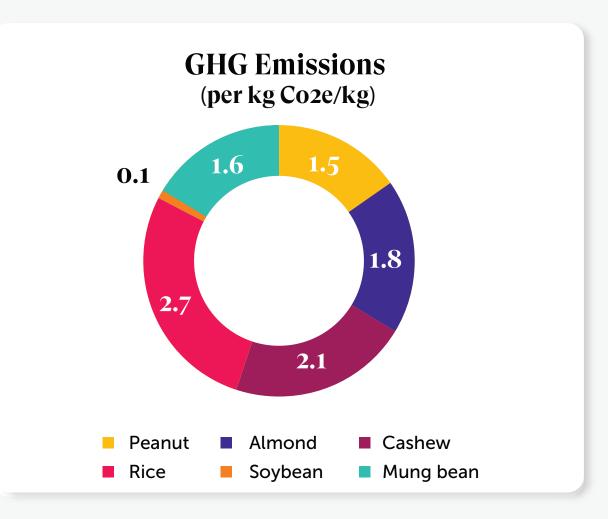
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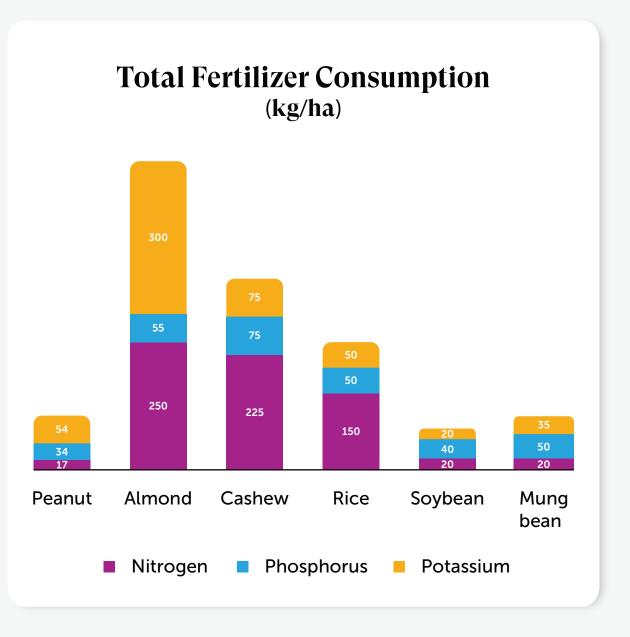
# Sustainability Statistics

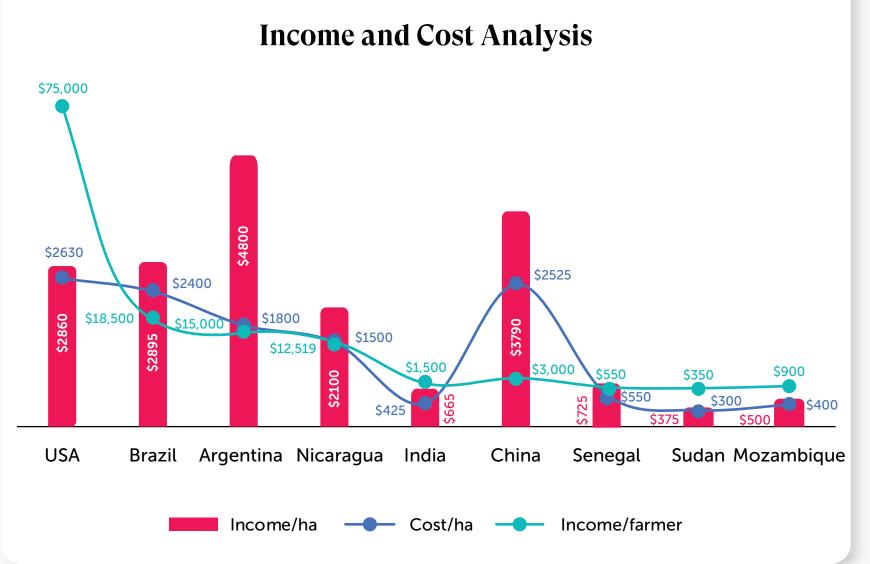


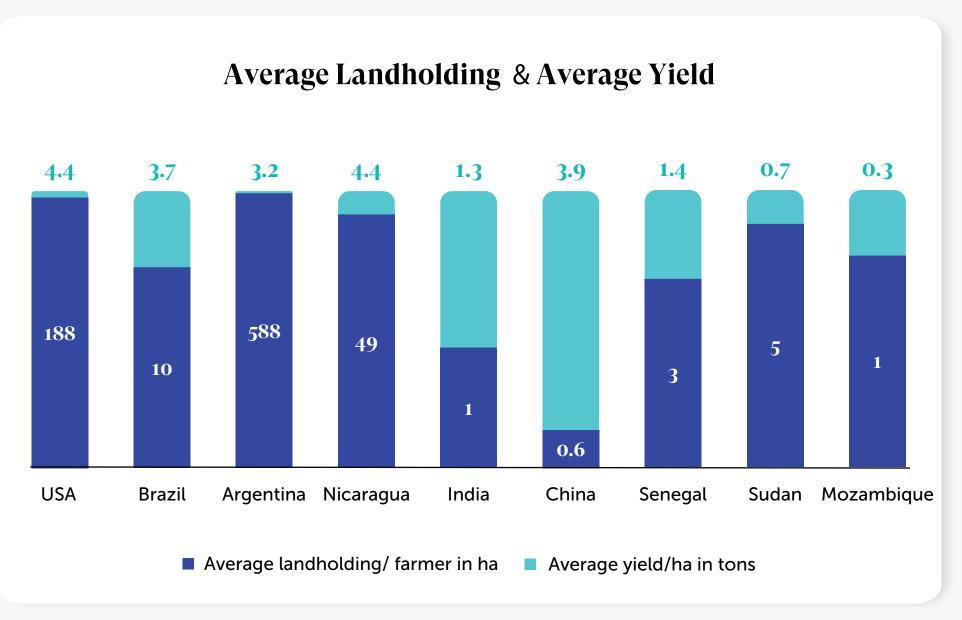














We've just added 'R' to the 'E'—Renew, Reuse, Regenerate, Reengineer, and Reimagine.

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# NNEX

# Sustainability in the Peanut Industry

Significant Others in the Global Peanut Industry



#### Peanut Waste Transformed into Eco-Friendly Packaging Solutions

Peanut waste is being repurposed into sustainable packaging materials, offering a greener alternative to traditional packaging options. This innovative approach not only addresses the issue of agricultural waste but also provides a solution for reducing plastic waste. The development of biodegradable packaging from peanut byproducts highlights the potential for agricultural waste to be used in environmentally beneficial ways, aligning with global sustainability goals and contributing to more eco-friendly practices in the packaging industry.

#### Innovative Partnerships by Mars Help Safeguard Smallholder Farmers' Harvests

Mars Inc. is driving positive change in agriculture through innovative partnerships designed to support smallholder farmers. These collaborations focus on enhancing farm productivity, improving supply chain resilience, and ensuring better harvests. By working closely with farmers, Mars is addressing key challenges such as climate change, resource management, and market access. The company's initiatives are helping farmers adopt sustainable practices, reduce losses, and achieve more stable incomes, thereby contributing to the overall improvement of agricultural sustainability and food security.



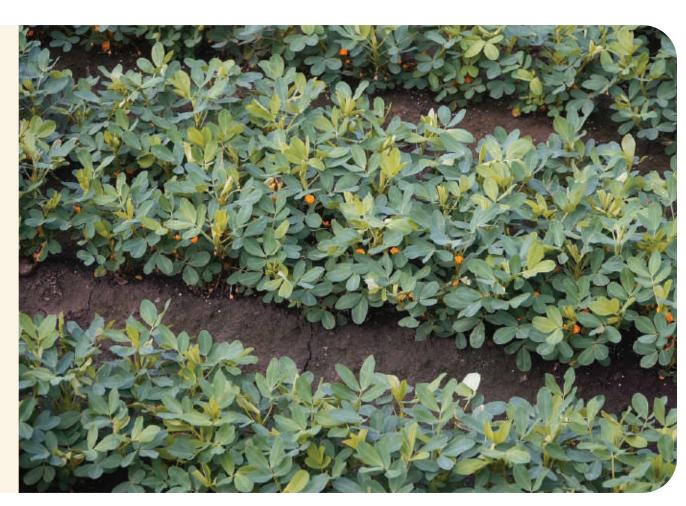


#### UNICEF's RUTF: A Lifesaving Solution for Malnutrition

UNICEF's Ready-to-Use Therapeutic Food (RUTF) is a crucial intervention for treating severe acute malnutrition in children. RUTF, a nutrient-dense, peanut-based paste, is designed to be used in emergency and therapeutic settings where malnutrition is prevalent. The product provides essential calories, proteins, and vitamins necessary for recovery and growth. UNICEF's efforts focus on scaling up the production and distribution of RUTF to reach more children in need, emphasizing its role in saving lives and improving health outcomes in crisis-affected regions.

## New TIFCB7 Peanut Variety Promises Enhanced Sustainability

The TIFCB7 peanut variety, developed from a decade of genomic research by the Texas Peanut Research Foundation (TPRF), offers significant improvements in sustainability. This new variety is designed to be more resilient to pests, diseases, and environmental stress, potentially leading to reduced need for chemical inputs and improved crop yields. The development of TIFCB7 highlights the benefits of advanced research in creating agricultural solutions that support sustainable farming practices and address challenges in peanut production.





## Agrocrops and VAS Green FPC Boost Farming with Girnar-4 Seeds

Agrocrops India and VAS Green FPC are driving sustainable farming in Veera Cholan village with Girnar-4 seeds, the first commercially available HOPE peanuts. This high-oleic variety offers 41-57% higher yields, reduces costs through certified seeds and direct purchasing, and commands premium market prices due to its 78% oleic content. The initiative covers 153 acres, with 15.3 tons of seeds sown and a projected harvest of 130-150 tons, showcasing significant improvements in productivity and economic benefits for farmers. This partnership highlights a successful model for advancing sustainable agriculture and enhancing farmer livelihoods.

# Our Sustainability Vision

Why is Agrocrops the Leading Sustainability-Focused company in the Peanut Industry?

We are ensuring that the cultivation and consumption of peanuts contribute to a thriving planet and resilient communities.

Our sustainability vision is to be a pioneering force in the peanut industry, leading the way towards a regenerative and equitable agricultural ecosystem. We aspire to set new standards for responsible farming, environmental stewardship, and social impact, fostering a world where every peanut is a symbol of sustainability and well-being.

"A Rising Tide Lifts Every Boat"



## N EX

# Climate Change

Agrocrops recognizes that climate change is more significant now than ever before. We are taking proactive measures to address its impacts, including implementing an adaptive transition plan that strengthens resilience, promotes sustainable practices, and fosters innovation across all levels of our operations.

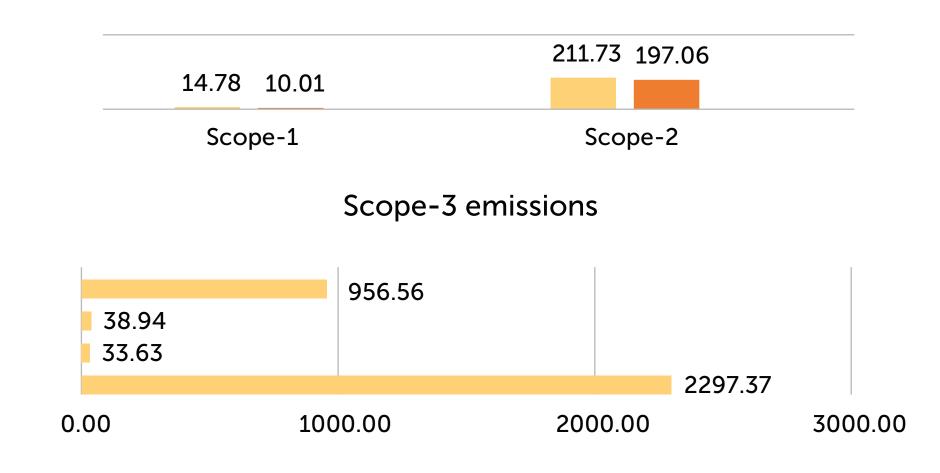
To calculate our greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, we adhere to the accounting guidelines outlined in the GHG Protocol, covering Scope 1 to Scope 3 emissions. Our reporting boundary is established using the operational control approach, and we source our emission factors from the CEA, DEFRA 2023, and IPCC databases. We conduct thorough internal reviews of our emissions data to ensure our valued stakeholders can trust the accuracy of the information we provide.



Emissions Catagory	Total Emission (MT CO₂eq)	
Emissions Category	2022	2023
Scope 1	14.78	10.01
Scope 2	211.73	197.06
Scope 3	-	3326.49
Gross GHG Emissions	226.51	3533.55

Sco	Total emission (MT CO₂eq)	
Category - 1	Purchased Goods and Services	956.56
Category - 6	Business Travel	38.94
Category - 7	Employee Commuting	33.63
Category - 9	Downstream Transportation and Distribution	2297.37
Gross	3326.49	

#### **GHG Emissions Accounting**



#### Our Initiatives towards Carbon Neutrality

#### Conventional Approach

#### **Energy Efficiency**

We recognize the significance of energy efficiency as a crucial first step in our decarbonization roadmap. We are dedicated to using energy-efficient products, incorporating Energy Star ratings and star labeling for our production equipment.

#### Sustainable Energy Transition

Initiative to favor investments strategically in renewable energy technologies such as solar and energy storage systems to power our operations.

#### Lifecycle Impacts

Our focus on conducting lifecycle assessments to identify emission hotspots, guiding us in reducing the product carbon footprint. This strategic approach is essential for achieving carbon neutrality, as we implement targeted measures throughout our operations.

## Encouraging Public Transport

By promoting the use of public transports, we aim to enhance community connectivity while fostering sustainable mobility solutions that contribute to a greener environment.

Carbon Insetting

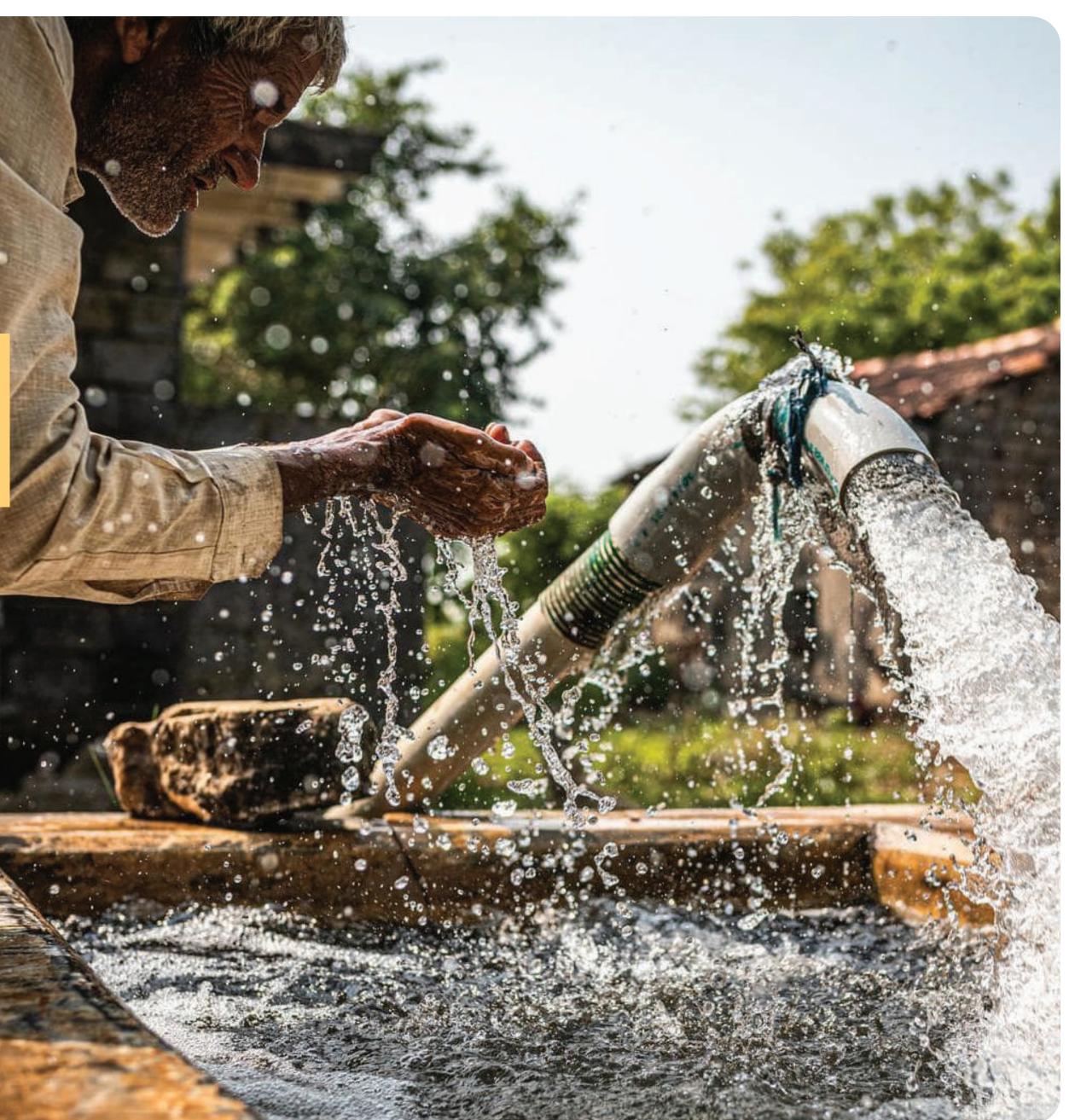
**Innovative Approach** 

We have invested considerable effort in converting our bio waste into carbon matter, which has the potential to reduce our emissions by over 50%. This initiative is a key part of our commitment to sustainability and reducing our environmental impact.

### Transition to Electric Vehicle

Promote electric vehicles in our fleet is a crucial step toward reducing the GHG emissions.





# Water Stewardship

Water stewardship is a crucial foundation of sustainability at Agrocrops, reflecting our commitment to responsible water use, conservation, and environmental protection. We understand that water is a vital resource essential for our operations as well as the communities and ecosystems that rely on it. Our dedication goes beyond simply meeting regulatory requirements; we actively strive to balance our operational needs with the preservation and enhancement of water resources for both current and future generations.

At Agrocrops, we use water solely for domestic purposes and maintain a water-free production process. Recognizing water as a critical material topic in our value chain, we collaborate with FPOs to implement initiatives that conserve water at farmers' sites, promoting sustainable practices like rainwater harvesting and efficient irrigation. Our commitment enhances water stewardship and supports the long-term sustainability of agriculture.

#### **Water Conservation Practices**

We place a strong emphasis on water conservation within our operations and supply chain by implementing efficient irrigation and agricultural practices, and investing in advanced technologies. These initiatives not only promote responsible water use but also enhance the overall sustainability of the agricultural supply chain. Through these efforts, Agrocrops aims to create a more sustainable agricultural ecosystem, supporting not only our business goals but also the health of local communities and the environment.

#### **Community Engagement**

We engage with local communities on water-related initiatives, including water conservation awareness campaigns and community-driven water management programs, and enhance relationships and contribute significantly to the well-being of the regions in which the company operates. We actively listen to community concerns and collaborate on solutions. This commitment to engaging local communities not only enhances the company's impact on water stewardship but also supports the development of resilient communities equipped to tackle water-related challenges together.

#### **Employee Training & Awareness**

We promote a culture of water stewardship among its employees by conducting training and awareness programs.

These initiatives educate staff on the significance of water conservation, efficient usage practices, and the vital role each individual plays in the company's overarching commitment to sustainable water management. By instilling a strong sense of stewardship, Agrocrops aims to create a workforce that is not only aware of the challenges facing water resources but also motivated to make a positive impact both within the organization and in the wider community.

#### Rainwater Harvesting

We recognize the importance of rain water harvesting and invest in developing rain water harvesting facilities for farmers. By collecting and using rainwater for non-potable applications within our facility and at agriculture farms, we not only decrease our dependence on external water sources but also play a crucial role in conserving natural water reservoirs.

We have been actively support farmers by assisting the farmer communities by revitalizing the ponds for rainwater harvesting, a critical initiative aimed at enhancing water availability and sustainability in agricultural practices. These ponds serve as vital reservoirs that collect and store rainwater, allowing farmers to utilize this resource during drier periods, thereby reducing dependence on external water sources.

In addition to revitalizing the ponds, we have also planned initiatives to rejuvenate existing wells for farmers and enhance them with rain water storage capacities. This process involves repairing and enhancing well infrastructure to ensure that these water sources can be used more hold more capacity and reduce the dependence on the monsoons for water. By improving well capacity, farmers can access groundwater more easily, which is crucial for irrigation and livestock needs, especially during times of drought.

# Waste Management

Our effective waste management is a fundamental component of our commitment to sustainability and environmental stewardship. We recognize that minimizing waste not only contributes to a healthier planet but also enhances operational efficiency and supports the well-being of the communities we serve.

#### **Our Initiatives**

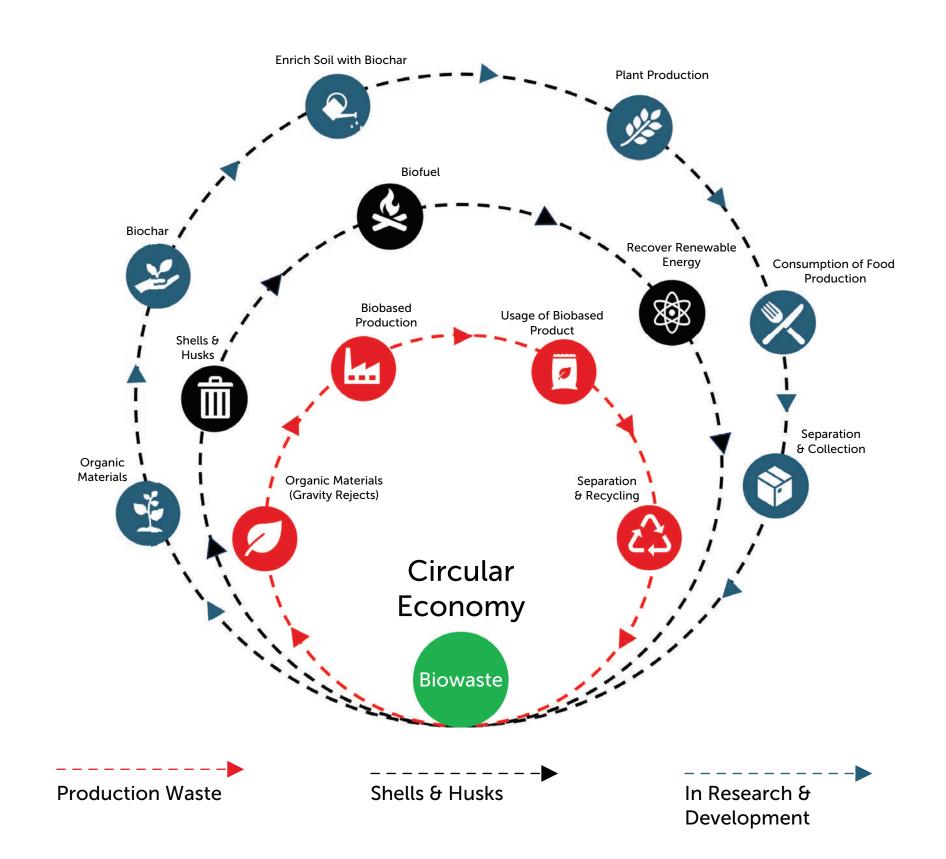
We have invested in advancing our ability to transform peanut husks, a common waste product, into biochar and activated carbon for industrial and agricultural applications. This innovative process turns a globally overlooked material into valuable resources, significantly enhancing sustainability and efficiency in various fields.

We have made significant contributions to research and development in non-destructive analysis for phytochemicals and seed vigor testing systems. Utilizing Near-Infrared Spectroscopy (NIRS), we perform non-invasive hyperspectral phenotyping to analyze the protein and fat content in peanuts. Furthermore, hyperspectral imaging allows us to identify the enzymes involved in germination, greatly reducing the time required compared to conventional physical and chemical methods.

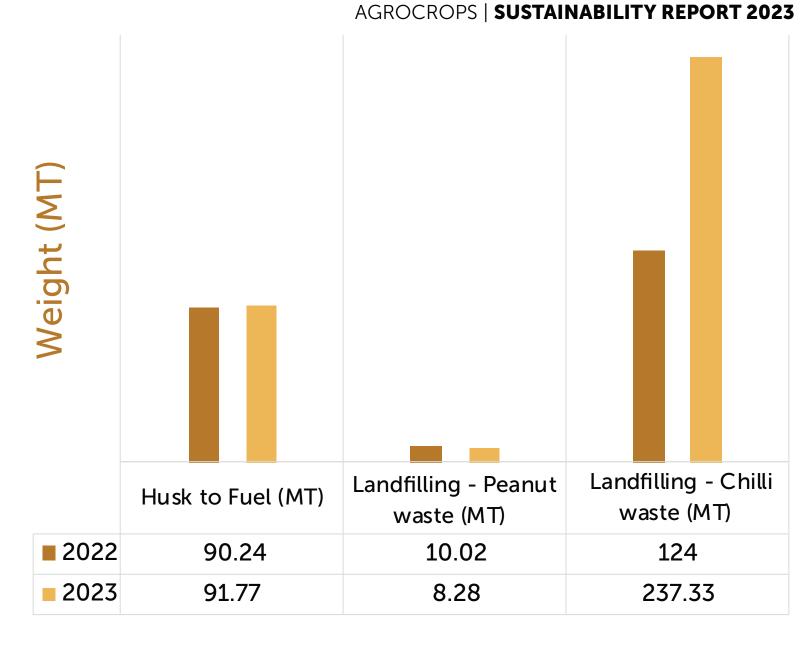
Our commitment to enhancing food quality and food security has prompted us to explore the applications of cold plasma technology. This non-thermal treatment is being researched for its effectiveness in eliminating microbes and reducing aflatoxin contamination. By slowing down the metabolism of peanuts, cold plasma treatment can extend their shelf life by up to 300%

Our R&D has identified peanut waste as an efficient and sustainable resource for producing bio oil and bio gas, which have various industrial applications, including the production of resins and renewable energy.

#### Our Approach to Circular Economy



We embrace a circular economy by closing the loop through innovative practices that prioritize reuse and sustainability, ensuring a sustainable planet for future generations.



#### **By-Product Utilization**

By-products from peanut processing, such as shells and hulls, are utilized effectively. These residual materials are repurposed for various applications, including animal feed, biomass energy production, and organic fertilizers, thereby contributing to a circular economy.

#### **Recycling Initiatives**

Packaging materials and other recyclable waste produced in our processing facilities are meticulously sorted and sent for recycling. By prioritizing eco-friendly packaging solutions, we significantly reduce the environmental impact of our products.

#### **Waste Reduction Measures**

The company takes proactive steps to minimize overall waste generation. This includes streamlining processes to reduce the use of excess or non-essential materials, designing packaging to minimize waste, and encouraging suppliers to embrace sustainable packaging practices.

#### Continuous Improvement and Innovation

Regular evaluations of waste management practices are carried out to promote a culture of continuous improvement. The company adopts innovative technologies and strategies to further advance waste reduction, recycling, and overall sustainability efforts.

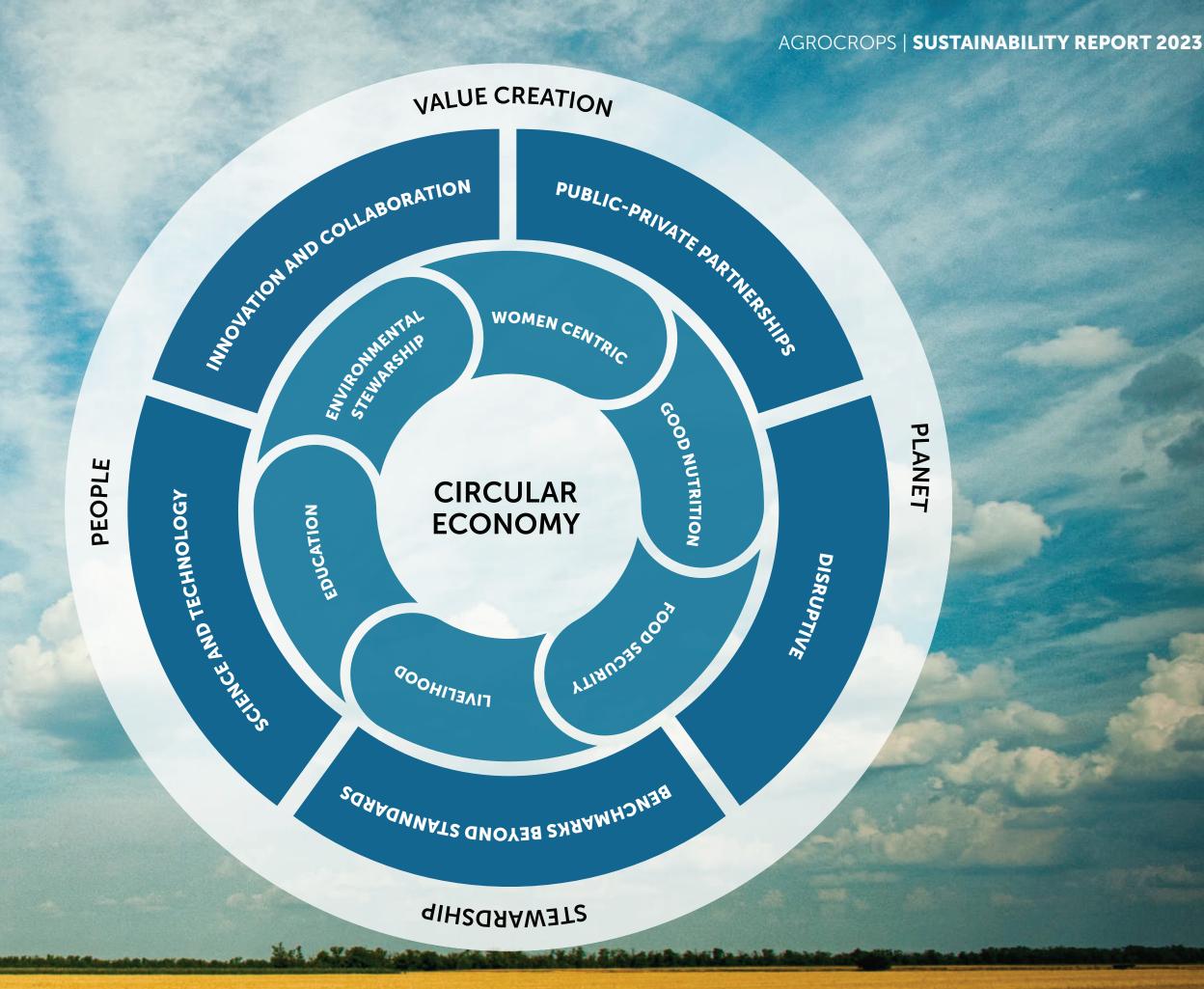




Hierarchy

# Peanut or Nothing

Agrocrops is a peanut-centric company, so everything we do is of utmost importance to us. We aim for circularity by design, business model, and overall strategy to thrive and develop the ecosystem. By doing so, we lay the groundwork for our operations. This approach helps us prioritise our sustainability agenda and shape our narrative.



#### Highlights of our Circularity Model

#### Women

We seek the engagement of women farmers and the upskilling of women employees in our projects and businesses because they are the bedrock of our society. Uplifting women has a positive impact on their entire families.

#### Education

We invest in long-term impact through education, and by connecting food and education, we aim to build a self-sustaining model of value creation and impact.

#### **Nutrition & Food Security**

Can we produce more? And how can we preserve what we produce for a longer period? Can this add-value for our customers and stakeholders? How can we take advantage of science? We approach our challenges with a unique perspective.

#### **Environmental Stewardship**

Peanut plants fix nitrogen in the soil, providing essential nutrients for the next crop. How can we leverage this paradigm in our business model?





of global peanut cultivation operates without regulations on pesticide usage and 90% lacks regulated Persistent Organic Pollutants (PoPs) policies, including guidelines on land use and biodiversi-

- Less than 3% of global peanut production utilizes regenerative or organic farming practices.
- of global peanut origins have a traceability system in place.
- 10%

Nearly 10% of peanut bio-waste is used as landfill, poultry feed, or biomass.

# Peanut Industry Gaps

- 40% of the origination is classified as high-risk in terms of labor practices, including fair wages, child labor, and safety.
- There are less than 1% of factory certified for global food, health, and safety standards such as BRC.



- 90% of the global peanut acreage has yields that fall more than 50% below industry benchmarks.
- The monthly average income of a peanut farmer is US\$45 in least developed origins, US\$140 in developing regions, and US\$13,000 in developed countries.



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- Except for the U.S., which accounts for 5% of the global harvest, the rest of the origination lacks strong government policies to regulate the upstream and midstream sectors of the peanut industry.
- Toxins in peanuts are either unregulated or loosely controlled during cultivation in 90% of the origins and 82% of the consumption regions trade without

strict regulations.



## Global Challenges

**Historical Pressing Risks for Sustainable Growth in the Peanut Industry** 

Despite adopting modern farming technology, regenerative agriculture practices remain poor

On average peanut farmers earn US\$5 per day, which is below the average income in agriculture

The industry lacked innovation in key areas such as seed germination, yield, irrigation, processing of raw material

More than 95% of the peanuts harvested and traded worldwide do not fall under a sustainable sourcing framework

## Workforce Welfare

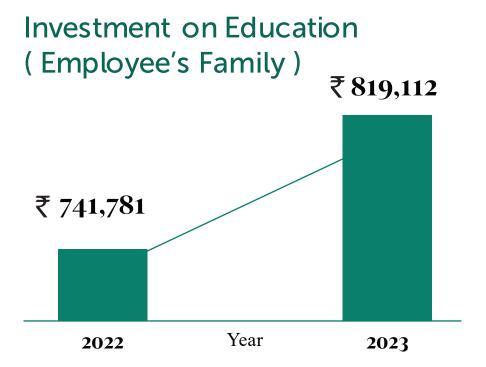
Supporting the education of employees' children is a vital aspect of workforce welfare, reflecting our commitment to the holistic well being of our team members and their families. Education is a powerful tool that shapes the future, not only of individuals but also of communities and society at large. By extending support to our employees' children, we are investing in the next generation, fostering a sense of security, and enhancing the overall quality of life for our workforce.

We offer scholarships and financial assistance programs for the children of our employees, ensuring that financial constraints do not hinder their educational pursuits. These scholarships allow families to focus on their children's academic success without undue financial stress.

We have invested a total of INR 711,112 towards the school fees of employees' children, directly benefiting 38 students across various educational levels.

In addition to supporting our employees, we have also extended our educational assistance to the families of daily wage workers. An amount of INR 108,000 is dedicated to covering the school fees of 4 students whose parents are daily laborers.

These contributions are part of our broader commitment to fostering educational development within our community. By providing financial aid for school fees, we aim to support the next generation, equipping them with the knowledge and skills necessary to succeed. This approach underscores our belief in the power of education as a transformative tool, not just for individual growth but for uplifting entire families and communities. Recognizing the transformative power of education, we have increased our investment in this area by approximately 10%, reinforcing our commitment to this key priority.



In essence, supporting the education of employees' children is not just an act of corporate benevolence; it's a strategic investment in the long-term success of our people and our business. It reflects our commitment to creating a supportive, family-friendly workplace that values the well-being of employees and their families, fostering a positive and thriving work environment.

#### Comprehensive Insurance

Our comprehensive medical insurance plan extends beyond individual employees, covering their immediate family members, including spouses, parents, and children. This coverage offers peace of mind and financial security by protecting against unexpected medical expenses. Currently, 81 employees benefit from this insurance, alongside coverage for 201 immediate family members, adding to a sum of INR 585,785, reflecting our investment in the health and well-being of our workforce and their loved ones. This initiative demonstrates our commitment to providing robust support systems that safeguard our employees and their families during times of medical needs.

#### Employee Wellbeing

At Agrocrops, we recognize that employee well-being is fundamental to a fulfilling life, both at work and at home. Our commitment to employee welfare goes beyond the workplace, as we strive to support our team members in all aspects of their lives. We offer up to six months of paid maternity leave as a standard benefit, ensuring that new parents have the time they need to care for their growing families without financial stress. We know that welcoming a new family member is a joyous occasion, and we share in that celebration by providing a special newborn baby allowance to support our employees during this important time.

#### Learning & Development

Our comprehensive learning and devlopment programs are tailored to address the diverse and evolving needs of our workforce. These programs encompass a broad spectrum of development opportunities, including technical skills training to ensure our employees stay at the forefront of industry advancements. In addition to technical expertise, we offer leadership training to cultivate strong, capable leaders who can guide teams effectively. Furthermore, we provide access to industry-specific certifications, ensuring our employees have the credentials needed to excel and advance in their respective fields.

#### **Employee Recognition**

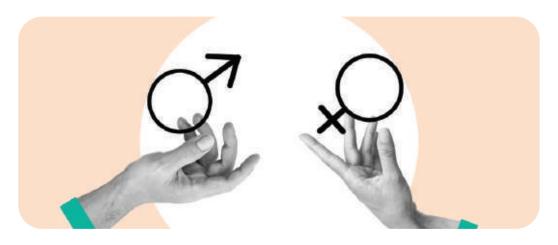
We believe that our employees are the backbone of our success, and we proudly celebrate their resilience, vision, and leadership through our recognition programs. The "Persistent Peanut Award" honors those who embody this spirit—individuals who keep pushing forward, no matter the obstacles, and inspire those around them with their unwavering commitment. We also honor our visionaries with the "Braveheart Award." These are the leaders who consistently go above and beyond, demonstrating not just perseverance but also foresight and innovation. They are the driving force behind our progress, consistently pushing the boundaries of what's possible and setting an inspiring example for all.

#### Policies – Workforce welfare



#### Non-discrimination and Equality

Agrocrops is dedicated to fostering an environment at work where people are respected and treated with dignity. In order to create an environment where workers may perform to the best of their abilities without facing intimidation, oppression, exploitation, discrimination, or any other kind of harassment, we aim to build a workplace that is marked by mutual trust and respect. Our anti-discrimination and anti-harassment policy strongly forbids all forms of harassment and discrimination, regardless of their sexual nature, and places a strong emphasis on the professional conduct that is expected of all employees.



#### **Human Rights Policy**

Our company's fundamental values include upholding moral behavior and acknowledging human rights. Humane working conditions, equitable pay, and worker safety are given top priority under our strict standards. We promote gender parity and cultivate a welcoming atmosphere. In order to ensure compliance, regular audits and transparency are essential. We work together with neighborhood groups while honoring the rights of indigenous people and cultural diversity. We pledge to uphold ethical labor standards by forbidding child labor, forced labor, and discrimination in any way across our supply chain.

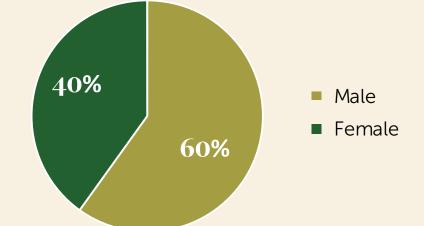
# Workforce Diversity

We believe that a diverse workforce is essential not only for fostering innovation and creativity but also for driving business success. Diversity enhances our workplace culture by bringing together a variety of perspectives, talents, and experiences, which helps us better serve our global markets. Promoting gender diversity is particularly important in achieving true inclusion, equity, and a well-rounded workforce. By increasing female representation, we gain valuable insights into customer satisfaction and preferences, allowing us to tailor our products and services more effectively. This focus on diversity strengthens our ability to meet the unique needs of our clients and improves overall business strategies.

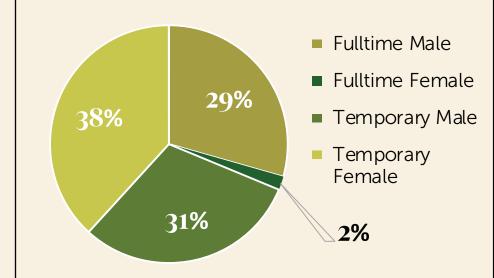
At Agrocrops, we believe that a diverse workforce is essential not only for fostering innovation and creativity but also for driving Our workforce currently consists of 59.9% male and 40.1% female employees, reflecting progress toward gender diversity while highlighting areas for further improvement. Full-time positions are still primarily held by men, with 29.4% being full-time male employees compared to 1.8% full-time female employees. Encouragingly, women make up 38.2% of temporary employees, compared to 30.5% of men, showing stronger representation in non-permanent positions.

This higher representation is because of that temporary roles offering more accessible opportunities for women, particularly at the site operations level and by choice they are associated with Agrocrops through temporary arrangement. By building on this foundation, we aim to extend these inclusivity efforts supporting female employment.

## Diversity at Group Level



#### Diversity - Type of Employment



We have developed targeted action plans to enhance gender diversity, with a strong focus on improving representation within our full-time workforce. While the progress made in promoting inclusivity among temporary workers is encouraging, our upcoming efforts will include narrowing differences in full-time positions to foster a more balanced and equitable workplace. Our ongoing dedication to diversity and inclusion will be instrumental in creating a workforce that truly reflects our values, where all employees—regardless of gender—are provided with equal opportunities for growth, leadership, and long-term career advancement. These efforts will ensure that our organization continues to be a supportive and inclusive environment for everyone.

## ANNEX

## Health & Safety

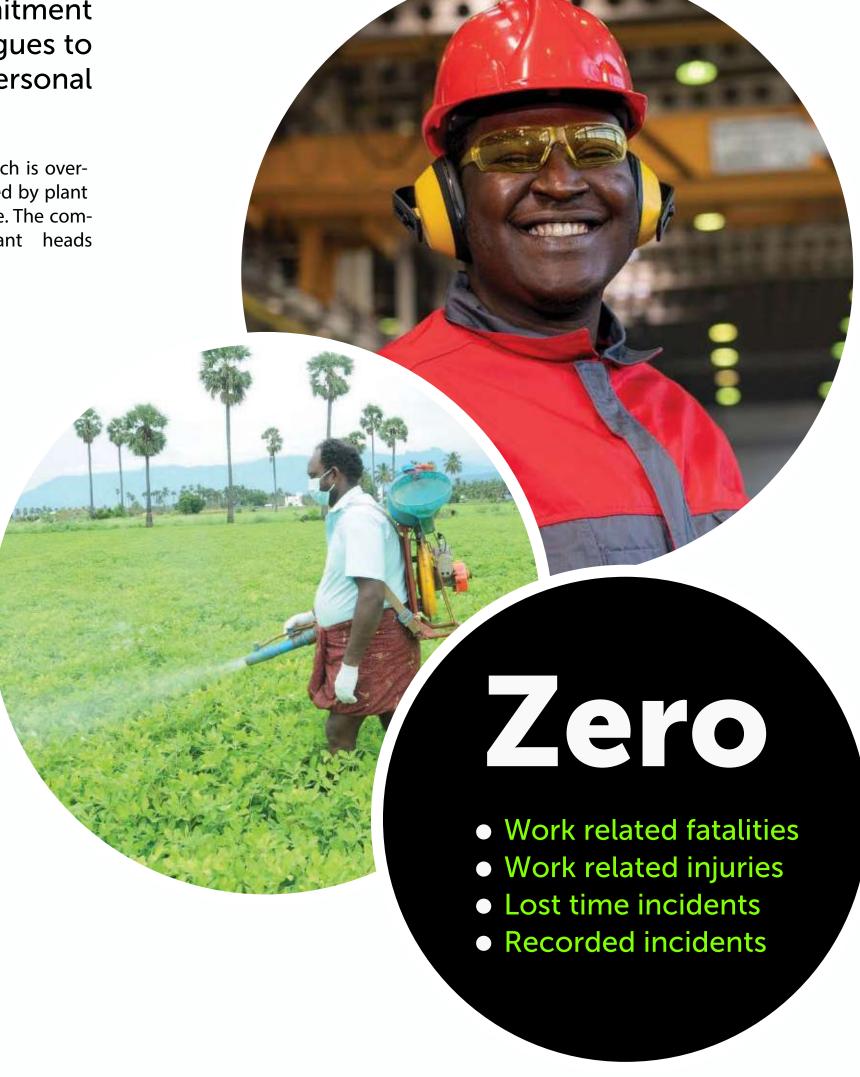
We are dedicated to addressing health, safety, and environmental issues. A key aspect of our commitment involves engaging and empowering our colleagues to prioritize safety both at work and in their personal lives.

We maintain a comprehensive Occupational Health and Safety system, which is overseen by a safety committee chaired by the CEO. This committee is supported by plant heads, as well as teams from engineering, processing, and quality assurance. The committee conducts bi-annual reviews of OHS measures, while plant heads continuously monitor safety protocols within their respective operations.



#### Stakeholder Engagement

Activity	Engagement
Administration	Safety committee chaired by CEO, supported by plant heads, etc.
Monitoring Frequency	Bi-annual reviews by the safety committee
Continuous Monitoring	Regular monitoring with prompt reporting of incidents by plant heads
Worker Training Regular	Periodic training by safety experts
Operation Risk Assessment	Potential risk review, lowrisk operations, no boilers, sharp tools



## Health and Safety for Employees

#### **Workplace Safety Training**

We conduct regular safety training sessions for our employees. These sessions cover the proper use of machinery, handling of hazardous materials, emergency procedures, and first aid. The goal is to equip employees with the knowledge and skills needed to prevent accidents and respond effectively in case of emergencies.

## Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

Employees are provided with appropriate PPE, such as gloves, ear plugs, masks, safety shoes and protective clothing, depending on their roles. The use of PPE is strictly en-forced to minimise the risk of injury or ex-posure to harmful substances.

## Commitment to Workplace Safety

Agrocrops is devoted to meeting or exceed-ing all relevant health and safety regulations. We invest in our employees and facilities to cultivate a strong health and safety culture aimed at achieving an accident-free envi-ronment. We continually work to enhance our processes, tools, and metrics, while investing in training and communication. Regular Health, Safety, and Environment (HSE) assessments are conducted to evalu-ate our progress in integrating HSE practices throughout our operations. We have inte-grated the HSE requirements as a part of our sustainability policies as part of our non-ne-gotiable commitment to improving compli-ance and culture.

#### Progress in workplace Safety

In 2023, our ongoing emphasis on leadership, capability building, and HSE assessments has led to improvements in most of our safety performance indicators. Over the past two years, we have recorded zero incidents, zero fatalities, and zero hours lost due to injury.

## Health and Safety in Farming Activities

## Farmer Training and Education Safe Farming Practices

We provides training to farmers on safe farming practices, including the proper use of pesticides and fertilisers, safe handling of equipment, and techniques to reduce physical strain. This training helps prevent accidents and promotes the overall health of the farming community.

#### Pesticide Management

The company emphasises the responsible use of pesticides, ensuring that farmers are aware of the correct dosages and application methods to minimise exposure and environmental impact. They also promote the use of personal protective equipment when handling chemicals.

#### **Improved Farming Techniques**

We promote the use of modern farming techniques and machinery that reduce the physical burden on farmers, thereby lowering the risk of injury. This includes encouraging the adoption of tools that are ergonomically designed and safer to use.

#### **Environmental Safety**

The company also focuses on environmental safety by promoting sustainable farming practices that reduce the use of harmful chemicals and encourage biodiversity. This not only protects the health of farmers but also ensures a safer and healthier environment for the entire community.

# Food Safety

Our priority is the health and well-being of consumers, who are ultimately our customers' customers. We have built trust with our clients by consistently delivering safe, nutritious, and delicious products. Our process, technology, and data management systems are unique to set a new standard in the peanut industry.

#### Risk Management and Traceability



#### Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points

We follow HACCP protocols to effectively identify, assess, and manage potential hazards in our processing chain. This systematic approach significantly enhances our capability to control and mitigate food safety risks.



#### Traceability and Recall procedures

We have invested considerable man hours in the process of designing a customized traceability system that enable us to pinpoint the origin of raw materials and track the movement of products throughout the entire supply chain. In the event of any safety concerns, our well-established recall procedures ensure a swift and effective response. Through these proactive measures, we are committed to maintaining the highest standards of safety and accountability in all our operations. Our target is to surpass standards such as Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive (CSRD) in the future while consolidating with existing standards.





#### Geo-tagging

We are implementing geo-tagging for our suppliers' farms, enhancing our traceability efforts in accordance with ISO 22000 and BRCGS standards. This initiative not only ensures compliance but also strengthens our commitment to transparency and quality in our supply chain. By accurately mapping our producers' locations, we can better monitor and guarantee the integrity of our food products from farm to table.

#### Sanitation

#### Sanitary Environment

Ensuring a clean and sanitary processing environment is vital for maintaining product safety. We prioritize regular cleaning of equipment, facilities, and surfaces to prevent the growth of harmful microorganisms and minimize the risk of cross-contamination.

#### Allergen Management

Given the potential for peanut allergies, effective allergen management is crucial; we emphasize clear labeling, strict segregation of allergens, and thorough cleaning practices to protect against cross-contamination.

#### Packaging and Storage Protocols

We have implemented a comprehensive system for following proper packaging protocols, using food-grade materials to safeguard the integrity of our final products. We also maintain optimal storage conditions, including precise temperature controls, to inhibit microbial growth and preserve product quality.

#### **Quality Standards and Safety Practices**

#### Compliance with Regulations

We conduct regular checks and inspections to detect and remove any potential contaminants, thereby upholding the highest safety standards. Compliance with both local and international food safety regulations is imperative; we continuously monitor regulatory changes and ensure full adherence to guarantee the safety of our offerings. Our unwavering commitment to quality and safety reflects our dedication to providing exceptional peanut products to our customers.

#### **Food Safety Management Certifications**

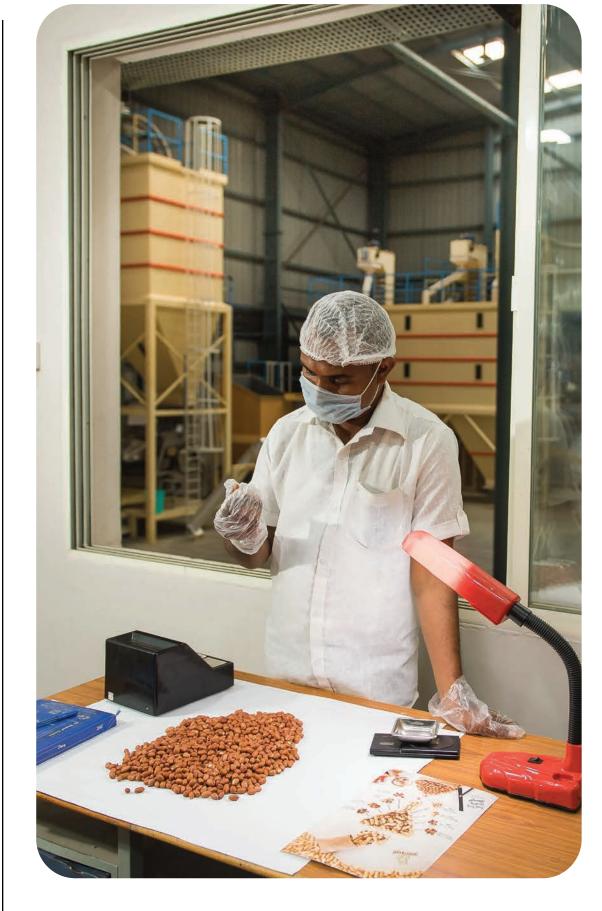
We proudly hold a range of certifications, including HACCP, ISO 22000, BRCGS, Fairtrade, and GlobalGAP, which guarantee product safety by effectively eliminating or minimizing hazards. Additionally, we are certified for religious dietary requirements, including Halal and Kosher. For a complete list of our certifications, please visit the About Us section of our website. All our products fully comply with HACCP standards, ensuring the highest level of food safety across all our plants and sites.

Overview of International Food Safety Certifications by Plant/Site:

- Agrocrops Mundra: BRCS, Kosher and Halal, Fairtrade, Sedex pillar4 and IS) 22000.
- Agrocrops Chennai + KMPL : HACCP and Fairtrade
- Agrocrops Hiriyur : HACCP
- Agrocrops Spices Pvt Ltd (ASPL) Guntur : Halal, ISO 22000 and GlobalGAP

Other statutory certifications obtained include FSSAI and APEDA.





#### **Testing and Monitoring**

Our in-house laboratory enables us to perform regular testing and monitoring of raw materials, intermediate products, and final products to ensure they meet safety standards. This includes thorough examinations for aflatoxins, pesticides, and other potential contaminants.

#### **Employee Training**

We are dedicated to providing comprehensive training for our employees on hygiene, sanitation, and food safety practices. A knowledgeable workforce is essential in maintaining a safe processing environment and significantly contributes to our overall quality control efforts.

## ANNEX

# Food Security

Food security ensures all individuals have access to safe, nutritious, and sufficient food to meet their dietary needs for an active and healthy life. This essential framework encompasses several key dimensions: availability, access, utilization, and stability of food supplies.

#### Availability

Agrocrops offers a diverse array of peanut-based products which enhances availability by ensuring that different types of food are accessible to consumers. This diversity can help meet various dietary needs and preferences, contributing to a more resilient food supply. We collaborate closely with farmers to encourage sustainable agricultural practices which ensures the long-term availability of food by protecting natural resources and maintaining soil health.



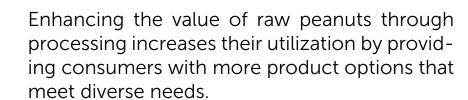
#### Access

Agrocrops uses efficient processing and distribution channels, peanut products become more accessible and affordable to a wider range of consumers. This dimension addresses the barriers individuals may face in obtaining food, including economic factors and physical distance to food sources, ensuring that everyone can acquire sufficient food for their needs.



#### Utilization

Agrocrops plays a vital role in delivering nutrient-rich peanuts that are packed with essential nutrients, such as proteins, healthy fats, and vitamins, thereby enhancing the nutritional quality of their diets. We emphasize the importance of not just having food available, but ensuring it contributes positively to nutrition and health outcomes.



#### Stability

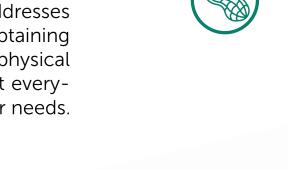
Agrocrops create job opportunities and foster economic development in peanut cultivation and processing areas. We support local economies. Engaging communities and providing education fosters resilience and stability.

We implement sustainable agricultural practices and contribute to stability by reducing the risk of crop failures and food shortages due to environmental changes.



#### **HOPE Initiative**

Agrocrops collaborates with FPOs to supply High Oleic seeds to supplier farmers. It tackles the problem of malnutrition through the supply of High Oleic Peanuts (HOPE) in partnership with foundations and manufacturers. The Hope mission is a long term initiative and aligns with UNICEF's manufacturers who produce the therapeutic products such as RUTF.





## ANNEX

# Community Engagement

We realize that community engagement goes beyond fulfilling corporate social responsibility; it is a core strategy that drives the sustainable growth and strengthens its connection with the communities it operates in. By investing in local development, Agrocrops not only supports the immediate needs of the community but also fosters long-term resilience and shared prosperity. It is not just a moral obligation but a strategic investment for Agrocrops, enhancing sustainable operations and strengthening its role in local development.

Through educational programs, and infrastructure support, Agrocrops enriches community life and builds trust, reinforcing its reputation as a responsible corporate entity. This commitment cultivates strong relationships and aligns business success with societal progress, redefining prosperity beyond financial outcomes to include meaningful impacts on the communities we engage with.

Community engagement at Agrocrops is deeply rooted in empowering local communities through targeted training and capacity-building initiatives. A cornerstone of our efforts is a project dedicated to increasing groundnut yields by identifying superior varietal seeds and implementing advanced farming practices. Through comprehensive training programs, we equip farmers with essential skills, from modern cultivation techniques to effective resource management, enabling them to achieve higher productivity and improved crop quality.

Agrocrops' focus on training and education underscores our belief that empowering individuals through knowledge creates lasting, positive change and drives sustainable growth in the regions we operate.

Identify Quality Groundnut Seeds with Varietal selection and introduced improved agronomic practices

The project aims to promote sustainable agriculture practices in groundnut production, establish soil and environmental conservation measures, and empower women and young entrepreneurs through group approaches, on-farm training, and mobile-based information technologies to enhance income. It also focuses on establishing farm equipment and processing units, capacity building in production and processing, and strengthening environmental social governance.

During the reporting period, six varietal demonstrations were introduced. Results showed that the improved variety yielded 9.00 quintals per acre compared to 8.07 quintals per acre from the traditional Girnar-4 variety, providing an 11.52% higher yield. Farmers earned a net return of Rs. 25,015 per acre from the improved variety, a 43% increase compared to Rs. 17,481 from the traditional variety.

Additionally, technology trials conducted on 15 fields revealed that improved farming practices using Girnar-4 produced an average pod yield of 9.66 quintals per acre, 22.05% higher than the traditional methods yielding 7.85 quintals per acre. These improved practices resulted in a net return of Rs. 25,673 per acre, a 38% increase compared to Rs. 18,570 per acre with traditional practices.



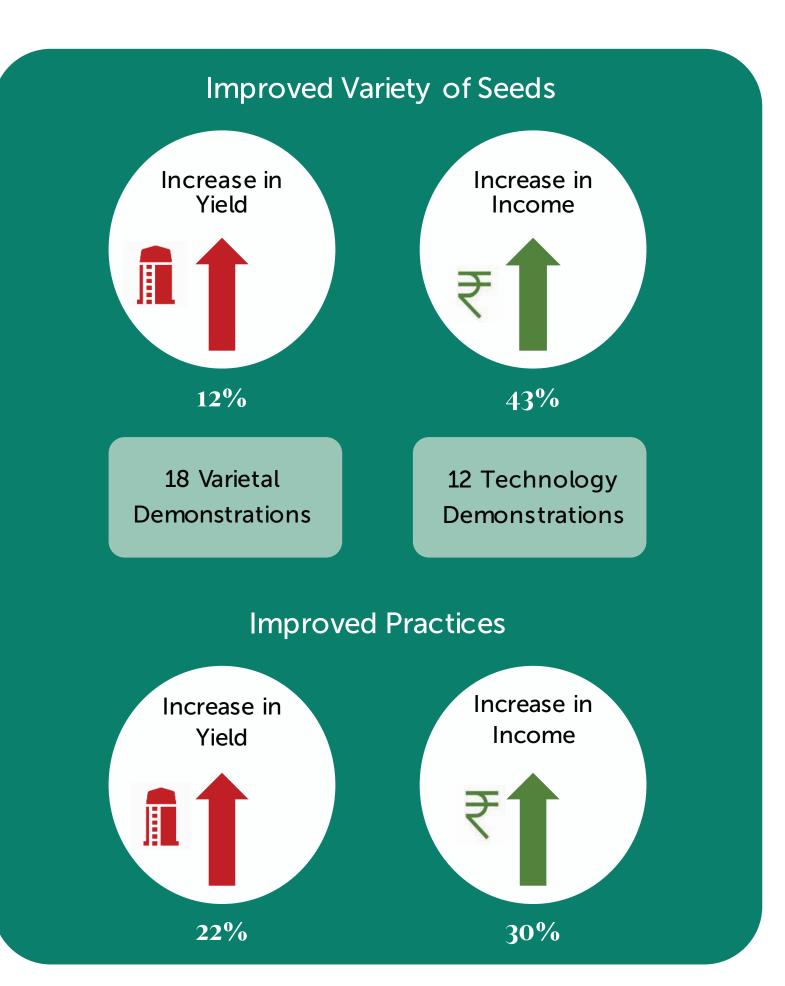
A groundnut seed festival was organized at three locations across the panchayats of Natamangalam, Pachal and Puthansanthai, with around 20 groundnut farmers participating in each event. Over 4.5 metric tons of groundnut seeds were distributed to farm families through this festival, engaging a total of 60 farming families from the three panchayats.

Three cluster-based Producer Groups were established, each comprising three Farmers' Clubs, totaling nine clubs aimed at promoting improved agronomic practices in groundnut cultivation.

Trainings were conducted on seed treatment, Preparation of enriched farm yard manure, application of recommend inputs, improved cultivation practices, best farming practices in groundnut cultivation benefitting 826 farmers.

#### Impacting Transformation

**Community Engagement** 



#### Consultation Meeting with Rang De

As part of Agrocrops' commitment to community engagement, Nallavur Farmer Producer Company Limited (FPCL) recently held a Board of Directors meeting, attended by representatives from Agrocrops, Rangde, and the Agriculture Department. Rangde, a peer-to-peer lending platform supporting unbanked communities, discussed extending credit support to FPCL members at favorable interest rates of 0.6 to 0.8 percent.

Under this collaboration, RangDe will provide direct credit to FPC members through bilateral agreements with the FPC and a trilateral arrangement involving Agrocrops and MSSRF. MSSRF will focus on capacity building for the FPC, Agrocrops will ensure market linkages for produce, and Rangde will offer essential financial support. During the meeting, the Agriculture Department also highlighted the importance of crop insurance, emphasizing risk mitigation for farmers.

This collaborative effort exemplifies Agrocrops dedication to strengthening community ties by supporting financial inclusion, capacity development, and sustainable agricultural practices, ultimately empowering local farmers and enhancing their economic resilience.

#### Free Seed Distribution

Under the HOPE Initiative, Agrocrops supported 350 farmers through a free seed distribution program, providing each farmer with seeds valued between ₹5,000 and ₹7,000. This initiative aims to enhance agricultural productivity and empower local farmers by offering them high-quality seeds at no cost, fostering sustainable farming practices and contributing to improved livelihoods.

#### **Bio-inputs Distributed**

We have been actively distributing essential bio-inputs to enhance agricultural productivity. This includes NPK (Nitrogen, Phosphorus, Potassium) fertilizers, which are crucial for balanced plant nutrition, as well as farmyard manure that enriches soil organic matter. Additionally, we provide biological traps to help manage pests in an eco-friendly manner.

#### Infrastructure Development

To support efficient farming practices, we have established a centralized common hiring center. This facility is equipped with state-of-the-art seedling machines and sprayers, which are available for use by local farmers. This initiative aims to streamline access to modern agricultural tools and improve overall farm efficiency.

## FPO Engagement and Development

Our engagement with Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) has seen significant growth. We expanded our partnerships from collaborating with 2 FPOs in 2022 to 23 FPOs in 2023. This expansion reflects our commitment to fostering a collaborative network that supports farmer empowerment, improves resource access, and enhances agricultural outcomes.

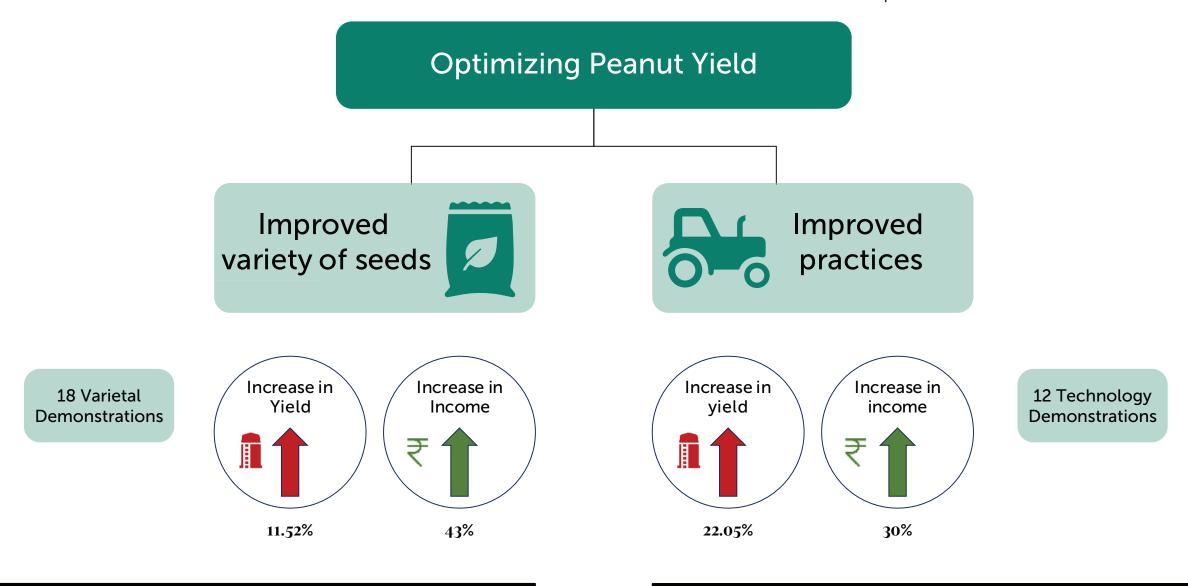
## Educational Support for Poor and Disabled Students

In line with its corporate social responsibility, Agrocrops has been dedicated to enhancing educational opportunities for children from underprivileged and disadvantaged backgrounds. Since the launch of this initiative in 2013, the company has awarded a total of INR 36,28,678 in scholarships. These funds are allocated through strategic partnerships with various NGOs based in Chennai. By providing financial support to these students, Agrocrops is helping to break the cycle of poverty and create pathways for a brighter future. This ongoing commitment underscores the company's belief in the transformative power of education and its role in fostering sustainable community development. Through these efforts, Agrocrops continues to make a meaningful impact on the lives of many young individuals, paving the way for their personal and academic growth.

#### Community Engagement

Trainings conducted on seed treatment, Preparation of enriched farm yard manure, application of recommend inputs, improved cultivation practices and IPM in groundnut cultivation so far 8 trainee days and 155 farmers have participated.









Training on Enriched FYM Preparation



Training on Bio Input Application



Training on Seed Treatment

Average Grain

Yield

Net Return

Traditional Variety

8.07 Quintal Per Acre

Rs.17481/- Per Acre



Training on IPM and Aflatoxin in Groundnut Cultivation

Average Grain Yield

Net Return

Improved Variety

9.00 Quintal Per Acre

Rs.25015/- Per Acre



Training on Seeder

**Improved Practice** 

9.66 Quintal Per Acre

Rs.25673/- Per Acre

Farmer's Practice

7.85 Quintal Per Acre

Rs.18750/- Per Acre



# HOPE

Agrocrops has embarked on a significant mission to cultivate and expand High Oleic Peanuts for and by Indian farmers and consumers. These peanuts are prized for their longer shelf life and nutritional benefits, aligning with the growing global demand, particularly from multinational manufacturers snack-food and UNICEF's Malnutrition project manufacturers like RUTF (Plumpy'nut). The HOPE mission is a long-term initiative, projected to take nearly a decade to reach its first major milestone. Throughout this journey, Agrocrops collaborates with smallholder farmers, especially women farmers, FPOs and cooperatives, NGOs, foundations, and certifying bodies. While our 2022 sustainability report offered a glimpse of this project, our 2023 report showcases the tangible achievements we've made so far.

















#### Sowing and Cultivation

#### Pilot Phase

Agrocrops began by introducing High Oleic Peanut seeds in select regions of India, specifically Tamil Nadu and Gujarat, covering 300 acres. The initial focus was on educating farmers about the benefits of growing High Oleic varieties and providing them with the necessary training and resources.

#### Expansion

Building on the success of the pilot phase, Agrocrops significantly expanded the sowing area by 3320%, with the goal of increasing production capacity to meet both domestic and international demand. The company worked closely with farmers to ensure the adoption of best practices in cultivation, pest management, and harvesting.

#### Strategy

The HOPE strategy is crafted to attract, engage, and benefit multiple stakeholders. Agrocrops believes that a successful business creates mutuality between all parties involved, a principle that has guided the HOPE project from its inception.

#### Quality & Traceability

While supporting smallholder farmers with premium prices and various forms of inputs such as seeds, training and other farm inputs, Agrocrops places a strong emphasis on creating a robust system for quality control and traceability. To meet the stringent standards required by international manufacturers, the company has implemented rigorous quality control measures across the farming, production, and processing stages. This includes testing for aflatoxins, ensuring the peanuts meet the High Oleic criteria, and maintaining consistent quality in large volumes.

#### Export and Market **Expansion**

#### First Commercial Sale

Agrocrops is proud to be India's first exporter of High Oleic Peanuts, tapping into a rapidly growing niche market in the global food industry. This achievement solidifies Agrocrops' position as a leader in the Indian high oleic peanuts. The first shipment of Agrocrops' HOPE was successfully delivered to Hilina Enriched Foodstuff, a UNICEF RUTF manufacturer in Ethiopia. The entire process-from farming and harvest to shipment—was a grand success.

#### Commercial Expansion & Key Milestones

Agrocrops' expansion strategy for HOPE focuses on connecting all stakeholders, including multinational snack-food manufacturers, RUTF producers, certification bodies, foundations, NGOs, and research agencies. The company plans to scale up High Oleic Peanut production by expanding to additional regions in India, such as Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, and Rajasthan. This involves increasing the number of farmers participating in the project and equipping them with advanced agricultural inputs and technologies.

Beyond expanding HOPE, Agrocrops is also investing in decarbonizing the entire value chain, raising the question of whether peanuts can be made carbon-free. The company encourages readers to look out for the 2024 sustainability report for more details.

HOPE is also being trialled internationally, and in 2023, Agrocrops achieved India's first commercial export sales of HOPE to UNICEF's Plumpy'Nut program.



Agrocrops aims to promote gender equality in agriculture, enhance the economic status of women farmers, and contribute to the overall development of rural communities.









#### Training and Capacity Building

Agrocrops provides training programmes for women farmers to enhance their agricultural skills, focusing on best practices in crop cultivation, pest management, and sustainable farming. This helps improve productivity and ensures that women are equipped with the knowledge needed to manage farms effectively.



#### Financial Inclusion

The company supports financial inclusion initiatives by facilitating access to credit and financial services for women. This empowers them to invest in better farming equipment, seeds, and other inputs, leading to improved yields and financial independence.



#### **Community Engagement**

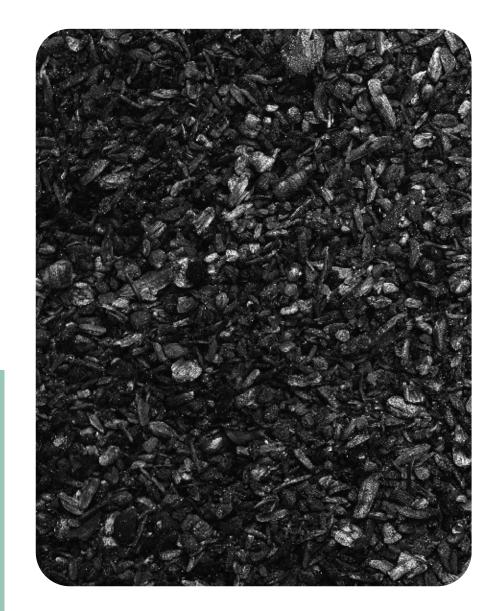
Agrocrops engages with local communities to promote the participation of women in farming activities. This includes organising awareness campaigns and collaborating with NGOs to create a supportive environment for women in agriculture.





# Research & Development

#### Activated Biochar



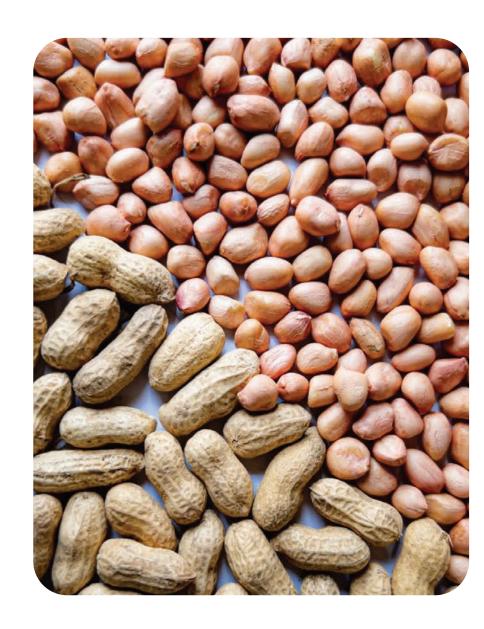
We have invested in enhancing our capabilities to utilize peanut husks, a common waste product, to produce biochar and activated carbon for industrial and agricultural use. This process transforms a global waste material into valuable resources, contributing to sustainability and efficiency in various applications.

#### Renewable Biogas and Resins



Our R&D has identified peanut waste as an efficient and sustainable resource for producing bio oil and bio gas, which have various industrial applications, including the production of resins and renewable energy.

#### Extending the Peanut Shelflife



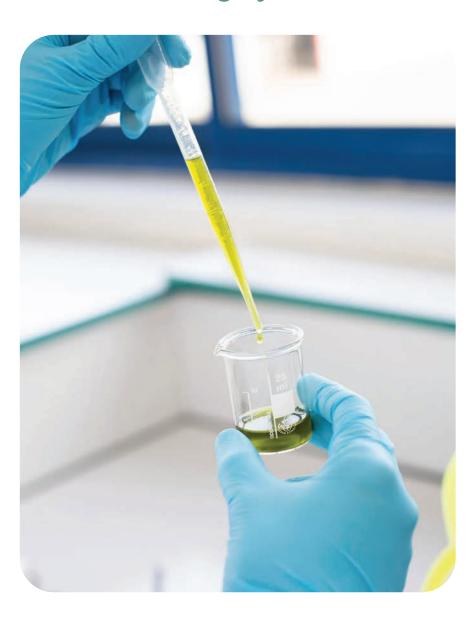
Our efforts to improve food quality and food security have led us to study cold plasma applications. This non-thermal treatment is being investigated for its ability to eliminate microbes and reduce aflatoxin contamination. Cold plasma treatment decreases the metabolism of peanuts, thereby increasing their shelf life by 300%.

#### Fortified Fertiliser



Our biochar project led us to develop fortified biofertilizer, which contains beneficial bacteria that transform less fertile land into more fertile land.

#### Vigor **Testing System**



We have contributed to the R&D of non-destructive analysis for phytochemicals and seed vigor testing systems. Using Near-Infrared Spectroscopy (NIRS), we analyze the protein and fat content in peanuts through non-destructive hyperspectral phenotyping. Additionally, hyperspectral imaging is used to determine the enzymes responsible for germination in peanuts, significantly saving time compared to traditional physical and chemical methods.

## ANNEX

# Black Gold

#### Black is Good, Black is Gold

Our carbon approach is unique and comprises two distinct approach. We are so passionate about carbon that we have adopted both conventional and innovative strategies. The scale of the carbon challenge is substantial, necessitating both short-term and long-term solutions, as it is an ongoing issue. The global peanut industry produces over 12 million tons of waste a year. Let's begin by exploring our innovative approach.

With our innovative approach, we have successfully completed the phase of validating scientific solutions for waste management at the laboratory level. Through our project initiative "Black Gold", Agrocrops aims to convert industry waste into valuable resources, while the industry-wide accepted best practice focuses on generating green energy from this waste.





11.89
million metric tons

Global peanut husk waste to Biochar sequester 11.89 million metric tons of CO, e.

15.85
Global peanut husk waste to Activated Biochar sequester 15.85 million metric tons of CO, e.

Activated biochar sequester 33% more carbon than non-activated counterpart.

The soil's organic carbon of peanut shell biochar treatment was 87.62% more than that of peanut shell treatment.

# Enhancing recycling with Peanut waste

- Conversion of waste into biochar
- Blending biochar with soil to sequester 3,500 kg of carbon per hectare
- Potential yield improvement of 30% depending on soil conditions
- Generation of carbon credits
- Production of activated carbon through pyrolysis to create various grades for industrial applications
- Conversion of bio-oil into resins for industrial use
- Utilization of biogas to operate the biochar plant



# NNEX

# Disruptive approach on Sustainability

"Leading pioneering efforts in R&D, I drive Agrocrops' sustainability initiatives, including carbon-neutral peanut supply chains, non-destructive analysis techniques, and innovative bio-circular economy solutions like waste-to-value transformations."

Mr. Sureshkumar K Research & Development



We have been pioneers in the peanut industry through adaptation, reengineering, and integration. But we don't stop there. As we grow, we position ourselves to disrupt the industry through Research & Development. By embracing the concept of ""first mover advantage,"" we lead the way in developing innovative solutions that address environmental challenges and enhance the efficiency of peanut production, peanut products, and peanut life sciences.

Our groundbreaking projects aim not only to enhance our competitive edge but also to contribute to the broader goal of creating a sustainable and environmentally friendly peanut supply chain.

#### Making Our Peanut Supply Chain Carbon Neutral

One of our pivotal projects focuses on making our peanut supply chain carbon-neutral. By integrating sustainable farming practices, emission reduction, and investing in bio circular economy, we are reducing our carbon footprint. This initiative not only mitigates the environmental impact of peanut production but also sets a benchmark for the industry.

#### Developing Non-Destructive Analysis in Peanuts

We are also at the forefront of developing non-destructive analysis techniques for peanuts. This innovative approach allows us to save samples and expenditures while ensuring sustainability. By utilizing advanced technologies, we can analyze peanuts without causing damage, preserving valuable resources and enhancing efficiency in quality control processes.

#### Creating a Bio-Circular Economy with Peanut Husk Biochar as a Fortified Biofertilizer

Another significant project is the creation of peanut husk biochar as a fortified biofer-tilizer. This initiative is a prime example of our commitment to a bio-circular economy. By converting peanut husk, a by-product of peanut processing, into biofertilizer, we are not only reducing waste but also enriching soil health and promoting regenerative agriculture.

# The Carbon

## Peanut-Carbon, and the Roadmap to Regenerative Farming

Peanuts can become a carbon-friendly crop if we use innovative science approch. However, from developed regions like America to underdeveloped regions such as Africa, the focus on carbon-friendly processes remains limited. Given that peanuts are grown in around 90 country, producing 54 million tons and representing 88% of the global nut market, neglecting carbon considerations would not only be a missed opportunity but also adversely impacting our environment in large scale.

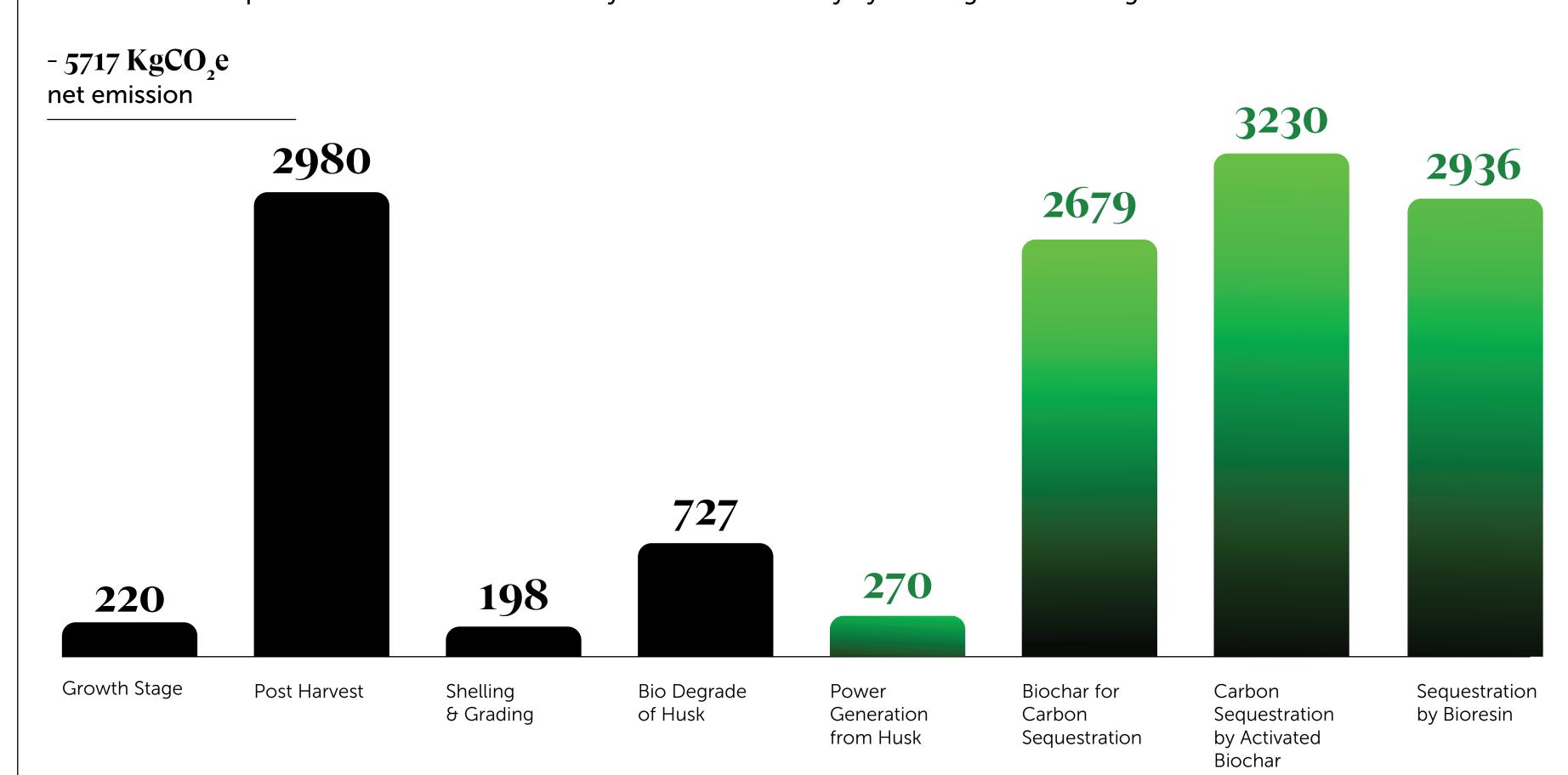
Roughly 95% of peanut-growing regions have yet to adapt to more than 75% of the identified risks and opportunities, indicating that the industry is still in its nascent stage when it comes to carbon accountability.

Agrocrops' carbon perspectives are both innovative and strategic, aimed not only at minimising adverse impacts but also at creating opportunities for regenerative farming. This approach is a key component of our reengineering strategy.

#### Key Statistics (India Level<sup>1</sup>)

- Peanut Estimated Production in India 2024-25: 10,645,000 Tons
- Peanut's Farm-level Emissions :
   2,341,900 tons CO<sub>2</sub>e
- Peanut's Factory-level Emissions:
   2,107,710 tons CO<sub>2</sub>e
- Sequestration from Biochar from Husk: 2,461,230 tons CO<sub>2</sub>e
- Net Emission: 1,988,380 tons CO<sub>2</sub>e

Our research highlights both the adverse and potential impacts of peanut across value chains on carbon emissions, as illustrated below. There is a potential to reduce emissions by 55% in the industry by utilizing the waste it generates.



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> These statistics were calculated using Indian production and consumption levels, based on the hypothesis: If all peanut plants grown in India were processed domestically with an optimal carbon-related waste management solution, how much emissions could be saved? (55% Savings)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> The calculations provided are estimates based on scientific data and calculators, expressed in units of KgCO₂e per ton. Actual values may vary depending on geography, peanut varieties, and other factors.

# CEO Talk on Carbon

#### **Our love for Carbon**

We are fortunate to have crises bringing opportunities beyond our imagination. Our love for carbon emerged from the challenge of managing our waste, which opened up a new universe of possibilities. Today, we have the capability to transform our waste into valuable resources while sequestering carbon and generating carbon credits. This commitment not only drives us beyond basic greenhouse gas measurements but also allows us to commercially offer carbon-free peanuts under our brand. Carbon will continue to be central to our business evolution in solving global problems using peanut waste.



Saravanan Lokasundaram CEO Agrocrops





# Corporate Governance

#### Purpose Driven Governance

As the bedrock of our company, corporate governance is an integral part of our commitment to sustainability. When it comes to establishing our culture, maintaining compliance with regulations, cultivating connections with internal and external stakeholders, and encouraging transparency and disclosures, our governance structure is vital. Therefore, we make it a priority to make ethical and effective decisions, so that we can satisfy our customers and grow our business for the long term.

#### Stakeholders Interest

Protecting the interests of our customers, clients, employees, shareholders, and communities is a top priority, and our strong corporate governance practices help us do just that. Agrocrops considers its Business Principles, which address the company's long-term fortification, security, and expansion, to be the bedrock of its success. These guidelines are universally applicable to all of our product lines and operational regions.

#### **Board Oversight of ESG**

Established positions and assigning explicit responsibilities to decision-makers at various levels, beginning with the Board of Directors, reinforce our corporate governance system. The Board's role is to determine the company's long-term goals, provide the resources necessary for the executive team to achieve those goals, oversee day-to-day operations, account for their actions as stewards, and look out for the interests of the company's shareholders. The effectiveness of the Board is governed by statutes, rules, and shareholder votes at annual meetings.

Our governance structure is fundamental to establishing our culture, ensuring regulatory compliance, and fostering transparency and stakeholder engagement. At Agrocrops, we prioritize making ethical and effective decisions to not only meet customer expectations but also to drive long-term business growth. Protecting the interests of our customers, clients, employees, shareholders, and communities is central to our corporate governance practices.

Our Business Principles are the cornerstone of our success, guiding the company's long-term stability, security, and expansion across all product lines and operational regions. The governance system is reinforced by clearly defined roles and responsibilities, starting with the Board of Directors. The Board is tasked with setting long-term goals, allocating resources for the executive team, overseeing daily operations, and safeguarding shareholder interests. Their effectiveness is ensured through adherence to statutes, regulations, and shareholder votes during annual meetings, ensuring that our governance framework supports both ethical practices and strategic growth.

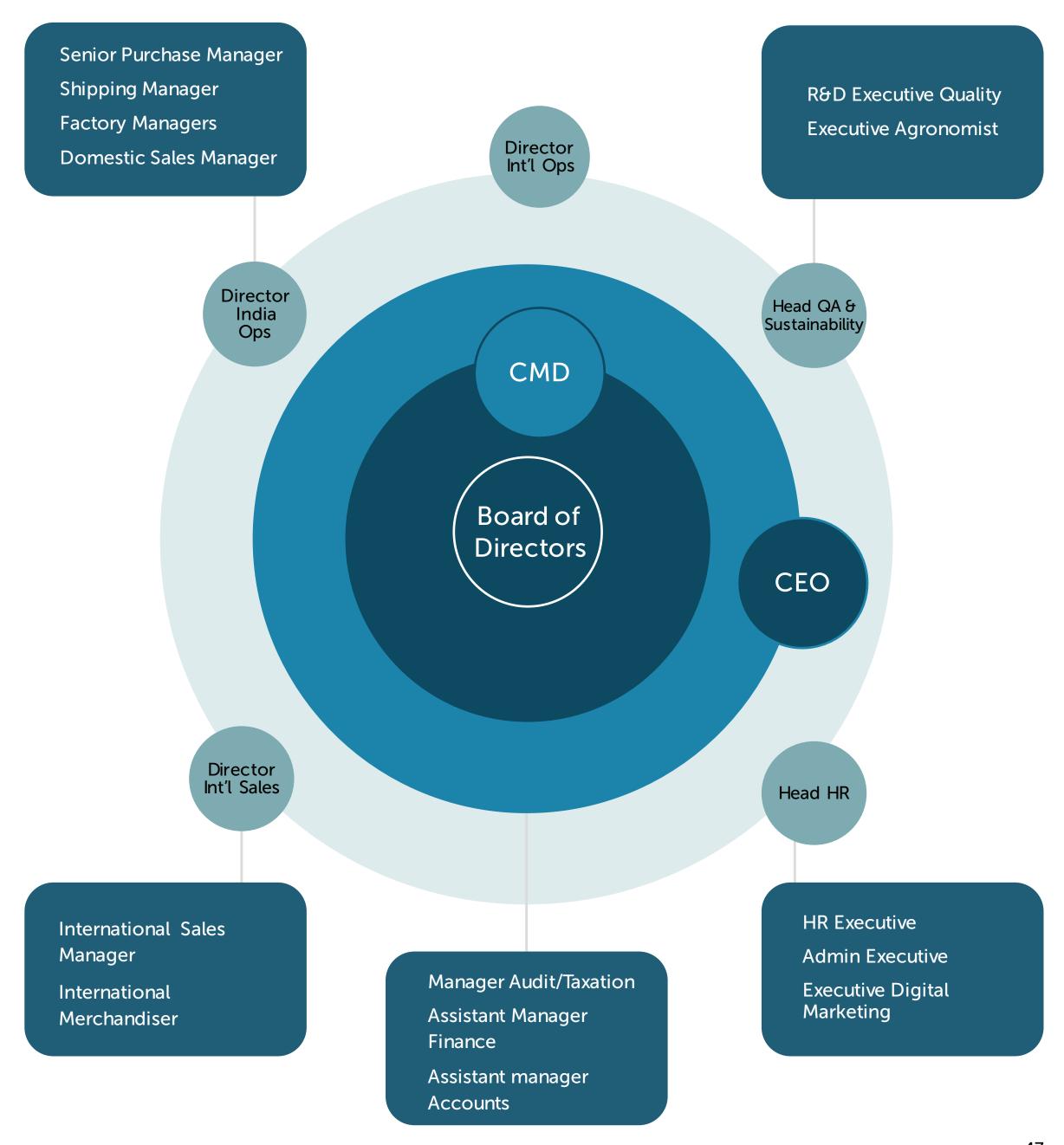
In Addition, to strengthen the supply chain, our practices emphasize strong interactions with Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs), enhancing partnerships and promoting sustainable agricultural practices.

#### **Board Diversity**

Number of Directors

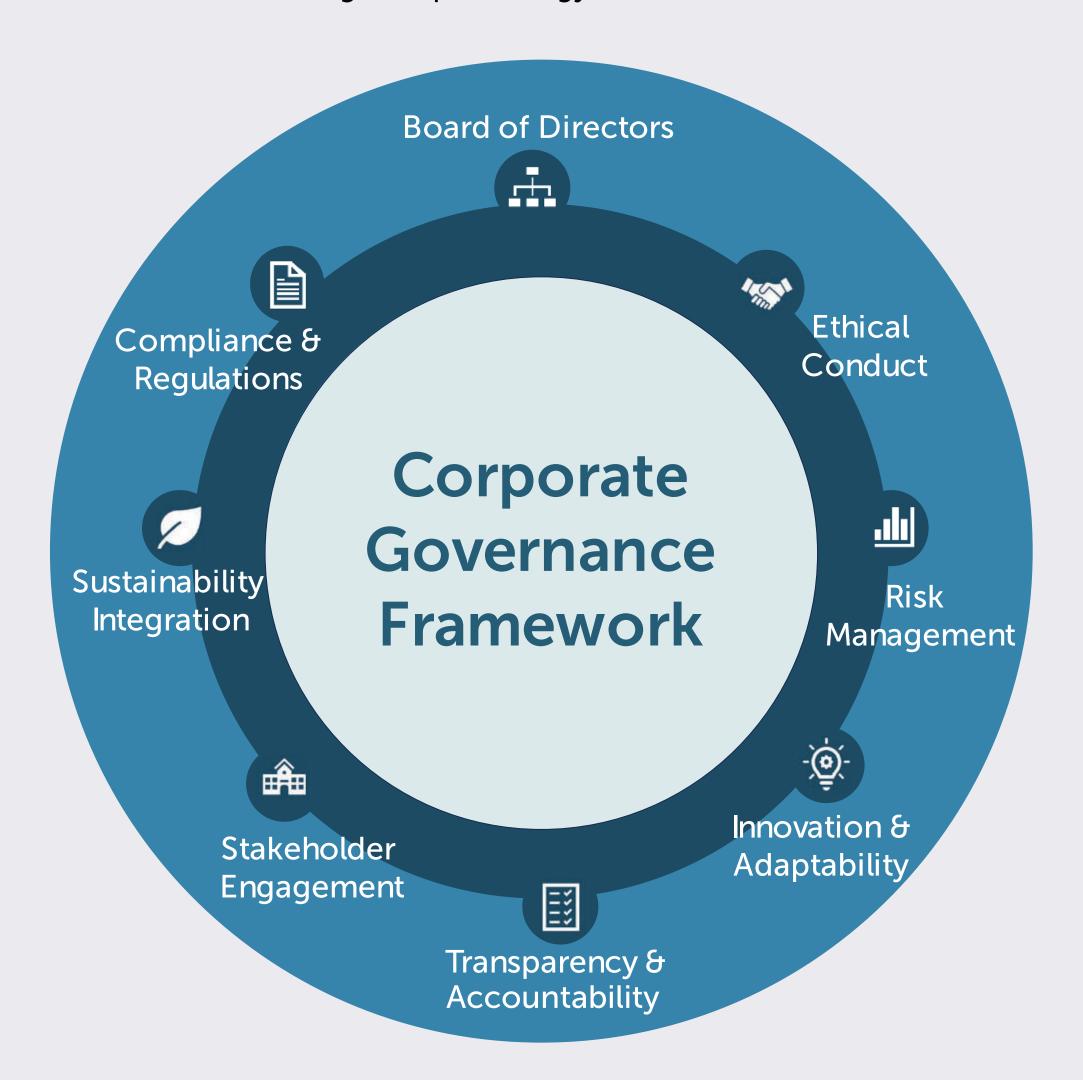
Female Director

25% Board Diversity



# Governance Approach

We believe that sustainable growth is deeply rooted in strong corporate governance, where our commitment to ethics, transparency, and stakeholder value forms the core of Agrocrops' strategy.





### Board of Directors

The Board of Directors provides strategic direction and oversight, ensuring that our practices align with our mission and values. The Board comprises experienced and diverse members who bring a wealth of expertise to guide in strategic initiatives.



## Ethical Conduct

Our Code of Conduct outlines the ethical standards and practices expected from all employees and stakeholders. This code promotes integrity, and fairness, in all business dealings.



#### Risk Management

A comprehensive risk management framework is maintained to identify and assess potential risks. The management team oversees the development and implementation of risk management strategies, ensuring that appropriate measures are in place to manage and reduce identified risks effectively.



## Innovation and Adaptability

nis and adaptability are key
drivers of our success and
sustainability. The Board
sets the strategic vision that
prioritizes innovation and
ensures that innovation remains a core focus of the
company's strategy. Key deto cisions regarding the allocatition of resources for technological advancements
and creative projects are
made by the Board.



## Transparency & Accountability

Transparency is central to our corporate governance. We are committed to open and honest communication with stakeholders. Regular updates and reports provide insights into our goverperforpractices, progress toward sustainability goals. Our financial disclosures meet international standards, offering investors a clear view of our fiscal health.



#### Stakeholder Engagement

We actively engage with stakeholders, including investors, employees, customers, and communities, to understand their concerns and expectations. This engagement informs our governance practices and helps us align our strategies with stakeholder interests. The Board considers stakeholder feedback in decision-making processes, ensuring that our governance practices reflect the needs and priorities of those affected by our operations.



#### Sustainability Integration

Sustainability is integral to our corporate governance. Group CEO oversees our sustainability strategies, eco-friendly agricultural practices, a sustainable supply chain, and positive social impact. We are committed to continuous improvement, guided by our integral ESG principles.



## Compliance with Regulations

The Board ensures that innovation initiatives comply with regulations and industry standards, mitigating risks from new technologies. We adhere strictly to local and international regulations, fostering a culture of compliance. Regular audits and legal reviews confirm our alignment with the highest legal and ethical standards.

# Governing Principles

For us, ethical conduct is not just a corporate value; it is the essence of who we are and how we operate. Our commitment to business ethics extends from our interactions with farmers and workers to our engagement with consumers, suppliers, and the broader community. Please find an overview of our business ethics framework, practices, and ongoing initiatives.

#### Code of Conduct

Our Code of Conduct serves as the ethical compass that guides the behaviour of every Agrocrops team member. Developed in alignment with international standards, it outlines our expectations regarding integrity, honesty, respect, and compliance with all applicable laws and regulations. The Code is disseminated across the organization and is integral to our induction and ongoing training programs.

## Responsibility

Transparency and

Communication

**Environmental** 

As stewards of the land, we understand the impact of agriculture on the environment. Agrocrops is committed to sustainable farming practices at our supply chain and operations that minimize our ecological footprint, conserve water, and preserve biodiversity. We invest in research and innovation to continually improve our environmental performance.

Transparency is the bedrock of our ethical

communication. We strive to provide clear

and honest information to all stakeholders.

Our communications, whether internal or ex-

ternal, are designed to foster trust and under-

standing. We regularly update stakeholders

through reports, newsletters, and other com-

#### **Anti-Corruption** Measures

We have zero tolerance for corruption in any form. Agrocrops employees are educated on the risks and consequences of corruption, and robust measures are in place to prevent and detect corrupt practices. We encourage a culture where employees feel empowered to report any unethical behaviour.

reporting year, no business ethics violations or cases of corruption have been recorded within our organization. Our robust ethical framework, which includes a comprehensive Code of Conduct, regular training programs, and vigilant monitoring, has contributed to maintaining the highest standards of business ethics. We be-

As we reflect on the past year at Agrocrops, we are proud to affirm our unwavering com-

mitment to ethics and integrity. We are

pleased to report that, throughout the

lieve that an ethical business is a sustainable business, and our dedication to these principles is embedded in every facet of our operations.

This achievement is not just a reflection of our policies and procedures; it is a testament to the ethical culture cultivated by every member of the Agrocrops family. Our team's commitment to doing business with integrity and in compliance with ethical standards is commendable, and we extend our gratitude to each member for their role in upholding our shared values.

As we look ahead, we remain steadfast in our commitment to fostering a culture of transparency, trust, and ethical excellence. We understand that maintaining these high standards is an ongoing process, and we are dedicated to continuous improvement in our ethical practices.

#### Fair Labour **Practices**

Supplier Code of

Conduct

We recognize that our success is intertwined with the well-being of those involved in peanut cultivation. Agrocrops is committed to fair labour practices, ensuring that workers across our supply chain receive fair wages, work in safe conditions, and are treated with dignity and respect. Regular audits and assessments help us uphold these standards.

Our relationships with suppliers are based on

mutual trust and ethical principles. Our Sup-

plier Code of Conduct outlines the expecta-

tions we have for our suppliers, including

ethical sourcing practices, environmental

responsibility, and compliance with labour

standards. We actively engage with our sup-

pliers to ensure alignment with these princi-

#### Community Engagement

munication channels.

Agrocrops actively engages with local communities where we operate. We believe in being a responsible corporate citizen by contributing to community development, supporting education, and participating in local initiatives. Community feedback is sought and considered in our decision-making processes.

#### Continuous **Improvement**

Ethics is a journey, not a destination. We continually assess our business practices, seeking areas for improvement and refinement. Feedback from stakeholders, regular ethical audits, and participation in industry initiatives contribute to our commitment to continuous improvement in ethical performance.

In conclusion, our commitment to business ethics is not just a checkbox; it is an integral part of our identity. At Agrocrops, we believe that by upholding the highest ethical standards, we not only ensure the success of our business but also contribute positively to the well-being of our stakeholders and the sustainability of the peanut industry. Together, we sow seeds of ethical excellence, nurturing a harvest that sustains communities and the planet.

## IVOP GOVI

# Responsible Social Engagement Framework

In the context of Agrocrops addressing the social pillar of sustainability involves initiatives and practices that contribute to the well-being of the community, employees, and other stakeholders. Our Responsible Social Engagement Framework involves following aspects.



## Community Engagement

Agrocrops is constantly engaging with local communities where it operates, supporting initiatives that enhance community well-being. This includes health and education programs, infrastructure development, and projects that positively impact the local community.

#### Social Impact Assessments

Conducting social impact assessments to understand the potential effects of the company's operations on the local community. This helps in identifying and addressing any social concerns or negative impacts.

## Philanthropy and Community Investment

Investing in philanthropic activities and community development projects, such as education sponsorship, free healthcare and mass free food programs. This demonstrates a commitment to giving back to the communities that the company serves.

By focusing on the social pillar of sustainability with our above mentioned framework, we are focusing our efforts to contribute to the social and economic development of the communities we operates in, while also fostering a positive and ethical corporate image.

#### Fairtrade Practices

Implementing fair trade practices in the supply chain ensures that farmers and workers involved in peanut cultivation are treated ethically. This includes fair wages, safe working conditions, community development initiatives and facilitate the access to farming machines to smallholder farmers free of cost.

## Education and Training Programs

Supporting education and training programs within the community, especially those related to sustainable agriculture, nutrition, and other relevant skills. This can empower individuals and contribute to overall community development.

### Ethical Marketing Practices

Ensuring that marketing practices are ethical and responsible, providing accurate information about the products, and avoiding practices that could be misleading or harmful.

### Employee Welfare

Prioritizing the welfare of employees through fair compensation, health-care benefits, and opportunities for professional development. Providing a safe and inclusive working environment fosters a positive workplace culture.

## Cultural Sensitivity

Being culturally sensitive in business operations, respecting local customs and traditions. This can help build positive relationships with the community and demonstrate the company's commitment to social responsibility.

#### Stakeholder Engagement

Engaging with a wide range of stake-holders, including local communities, suppliers, customers, and non-governmental organizations. Regular communication and feedback mechanisms can help address concerns and build positive relationships.

# Transforming Indian Agriculture: Strategic Partnership with MSSRF

The Chief of the M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation highlighted the pressing need for deeper engagement in India's agricultural sector. In this pivotal address, several critical areas were identified, each requiring immediate attention and collaborative efforts to ensure the sector's sustainable and resilient growth.

#### Strengthening Farmer Support Systems

He added that the support systems for farmers, particularly the smallholder farmers and women farmers who are the backbone of Indian agriculture, need to be strengthened in terms of access to credit, markets, inputs, technology, knowledge,



institutional linkages and extension services. FPOs can potentially play an important role in building farmers' capacity to negotiate prices and procure critical inputs as they give economy of scale.

## **Encouraging Innovation and Adoption of Technology**

The agricultural sector in India is at a crossroads; innovative technologies may improve productivity and sustainability. The Chief called for increased investment in research and development, particularly in the areas of climate-resilient crops,



precision agriculture, and digital farming tools. For this transformation to take place, collaborative efforts from the government, private sector, and research institutions would be needed.

## Tackling the Challenges of Climate Change and Unsustainability

Climatic change is an emerging crisis that threatens Indian farmers and agriculture. In particular, it has been marked by irregular weather patterns and rising extreme events. The founder of MSSRF reiterated his holistic approach to climate



adaptation: sustainable farming practices, soil health management, and water conservation. Noted also in his speech was the education of men and women farmers about climate-smart practices and equipping them with tools and knowledge to adapt.

#### Rural Livelihood and Inclusivity

He focused on the fact that it depends much on how rural life remains functional, considering the future of Indian agriculture. Improving rural livelihoods should work beyond agriculture and explore diversification opportunities in allied



sectors such as animal husbandry, fisheries, and agro-processing. These then require policies to make sure inclusivity prevails with special emphasis on women and marginalized groups—this itself holds the key to drive equitable growth.

#### Deeper Public-Private Partnerships

The public-private partnership was a key instrument of change in agriculture. The founder of MSSRF underlined collaborative models that aim for win-win situation by bringing together the best of the public sector, private enterprises, and



civil society organizations. This needs to be scaled up for workability, stimulation of innovation, and growth with benefits for all in the different stages of the value chain. MSSRF facilitated a partnership with Agrocrops Pvt Ltd and Nallavur Farmer Producer Company Limited (having above 1000 small farmers above 80% women as shareholders) in building the Groundnut value chain adopting the fair trade principles.

The debate was on how to revitalize policy reform, largely through setting an enabling environment for sustainable development in agriculture. This includes the possibility of re-examining the policies on land use, water management, and agricultural subsidies with a view to bringing them in line with the long-term objectives of food security, environmental sustainability, and rural prosperity.



**Ms. Rengalakshmi Raj** Development researcher MSSRF



# Governance & Policies

Governance policies ensure transparency, accountability, and ethical conduct in sustainability practices. These policies provide a structured framework for managing and disclosing ESG impacts. By implementing robust governance policies, companies can enhance their credibility, demonstrate commitment to responsible practices, and build trust with stakeholders.

#### Governance and Ethical Conduct

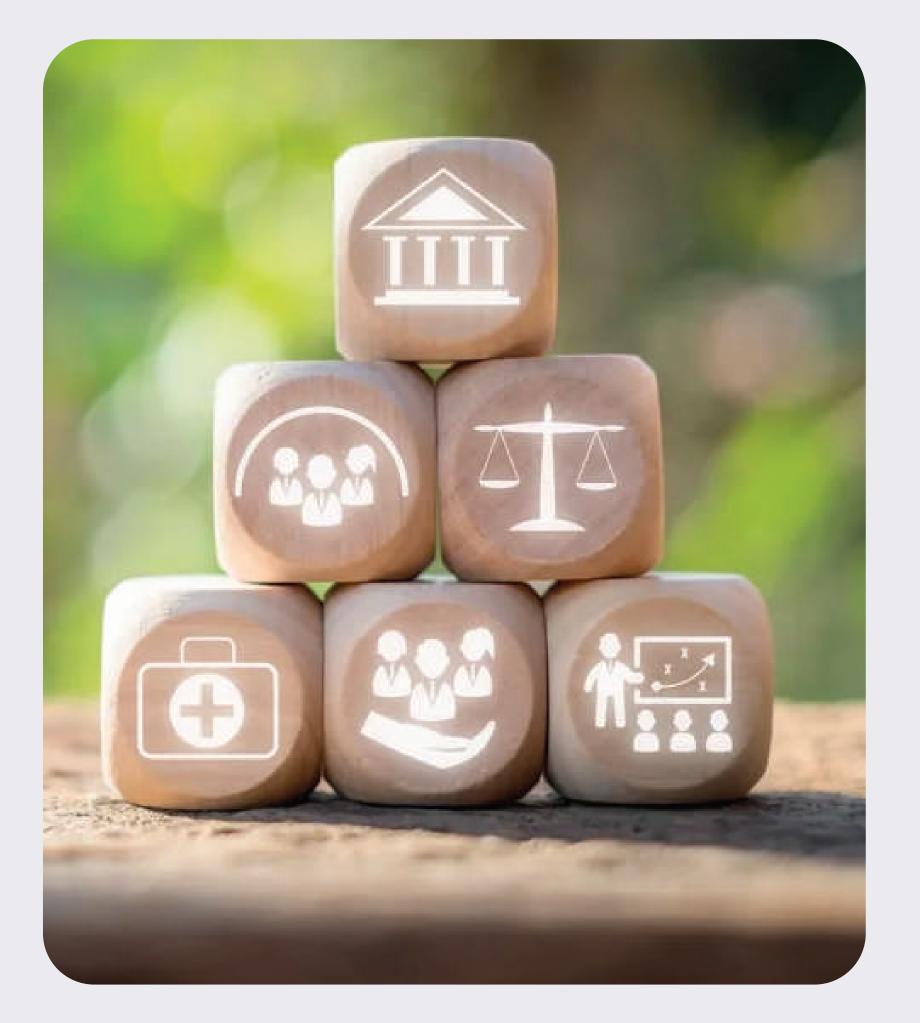
Governance and ethical conduct policies establish a framework for maintaining integrity and accountability within an organization. The Business Ethics Policy ensures that all business practices are conducted with fairness and transparency. The Anti-Corruption and Anti-Bribery Policy specifically targets the prevention of unethical practices such as bribery and corruption. Complementing these, the Whistleblowing Policy provides protection and a safe reporting mechanism for individuals who expose wrongdoing, while the Grievance Mechanism addresses and resolves workplace issues and complaints. Together, these policies uphold the organization's commitment to ethical behavior and governance.

#### **Human Rights and Workplace Culture**

Policies focused on human rights and workplace culture aim to foster a respectful, equitable, and inclusive environment. The Non-Discrimination and Anti-Harassment Policy ensures that all employees are treated fairly and that harassment and discrimination are actively prevented and addressed. The Human Rights Policy reinforces the organization's commitment to respecting and upholding human rights throughout its operations. The Hiring Policy supports these principles by promoting fair and inclusive recruitment practices. These policies collectively create a positive workplace culture and emphasize the organization's dedication to human rights and equal opportunity.

#### Fostering Sustainable Environment

Environmental and sustainability practices guide the organization's approach to minimizing its ecological footprint and promoting sustainable development. The Environmental Policy outlines strategies to reduce environmental impact and ensure compliance with regulations. The Sustainability Policy provides a comprehensive approach to integrating environmental, social, and economic sustainability into the company's operations. The Sustainable Procurement Policy directs the responsible sourcing of materials and services to support sustainability goals. These policies demonstrate the organization's commitment to environmental stewardship and sustainable business practices.



#### **Our Policies**

#### Grievance Mechanism

Our grievance mechanism ensures transparency and accountability in our agrocrop processes.

#### Whistleblowing

Our whistleblowing policy empowers employees to report any misconduct, fraud, or unethical behavior without fear of retaliation.

#### Sustainable Procurement Policy

We prioritise suppliers aligned with ethical and sustainable standards, promoting fair labour practices and minimising ecological impact.

#### Non-discrimination and Anti-Harassment Policy

We strictly prohibit any form of discrimination or harassment based on gender,age, race, color, religion, sexual orientation, disability, or any other protected characteristic.

#### **Business Ethics Policy**

We strictly adhere to legal and regulatory requirements, promoting a culture of compliance and responsibility.

#### Hiring Policy

Our procedures involve a multi-stage interview process, including technical evaluations and cultural fit discussions.

#### **Human Rights Policy**

Our stringent standards prioritize worker safety, fair wages, and humane working conditions. We champion gender equality, fostering an inclusive environment.

#### **Anticorruption and Anti-bribery Policy**

Policy is intended to outline the Company's liability/risks related to acts of bribery and corruption involving our employees while discharging their duties.



# Child Labour Prohibition

The comprehensive hiring policy at Agrocrops explicitly addresses and prohibits child labour, ensuring full compliance with all relevant laws and regulations. This commitment reflects a deep understanding of the ethical implications of child labour and its impact on communities.

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Agrocrops aims to contribute to a broader movement against child labour, fostering sustainable development and empowering communities to break the cycle of poverty. By prioritizing ethical practices and supporting initiatives that protect children, Agrocrops demonstrates its dedication to creating a more equitable and just world for all.

Initiatives	Compliance
Child Labour Prevention (Hiring)	100%
Supplier Monitoring through Fairtrade Audit	Ongoing



# Forced/Compulsory Labour Prohibition

Agrocrops is steadfast in its commitment to eliminating forced or compulsory labour in all aspects of its operations. The company implements stringent policies and ethical practices that guarantee all employees are engaged voluntarily and retain the freedom to terminate their employment at any time. This fundamental principle not only protects the rights of individuals but also fosters a positive work environment where employees feel valued and empowered.

Our robust hiring policy prohibits forced or compulsory labour and ensures 100% compliance with applicable laws. We also monitor supplier adherence through fairtrade audits.

Our sustainable procurement policy aims to implement supplier code of conduct through supplier education and training. We target to cover 100% suppliers by 2030.

Furthermore, there is a commitment to ensure that at least 50% of Farmers Producer Organizations (FPO) farmers are certified under Fairtrade by 2030.

Initiatives	Compliance
Compliance with Hiring Policy	100%
Sustainable Procurement Policy	100% by 2030
Fairtrade Certification for FPO farmers	50% by 2030

# Sustainable Supply Chain

Agrocrops' sustainable sourcing strategy for groundnuts takes a holistic approach by partnering with Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) and providing training through NGOs like the M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation (MSSRF) and the National Agro Foundation (NAF). This integrated effort enhances our commitment to sustainability and empowers farmers

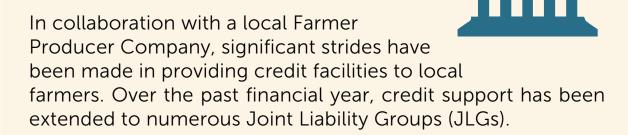
#### **Training Programs**

Agrocrops and FPOs have jointly organized numerous training sessions and workshops focusing on various aspects of modern farming techniques.



- Integrated crop management training
- Integrated crop pest and disease management in ground nut and paddy training
- Training on new technologies in cultivating groundnut and pulses for board of directors of Nallavur FPCL
- Training on seed production
- Training on fair-trade
- Training on farmer producer group account management
- Training on JLG (Joint Liability Groups) and its Management

#### Credit link



The credit linkage program began three years ago, offering initial loans to each member of the JLGs. Due to the consistent repayment efforts by the members, they have become eligible for increased loan amounts. This expansion has enabled many JLGs to benefit from enhanced financial support, helping them improve their agricultural practices and boost productivity. The program continues to empower farmers, fostering growth and sustainability in the local farming community.



#### **Upstream Sourcing**

Sustainable Sourcing through Partnership with FPOs

- Collaborative sourcing by working closely with FPOs
- Empowering farmers with better bargaining power and enabling them to secure fair prices
- Targeted training to FPOs and individual farmers through MSSRF and NAF
- Enhancing on yield and quality through training programs

#### **Plant Clinics**

Five plant clinics were organized across five villages in the Mailam block of Villupuram District. A total of 164 farmers participated, including 24 men, and 128 plant samples were diagnosed during the clinics. A plant doctor interacted with the farmers, providing valuable advice and guidance.



The clinics addressed various pest-affected crops, including brinjal, chilly, sesame, paddy, chrysanthemum, guava, custard apple, groundnut, pulses, flowers, and coconut. Participants received cost-effective and eco-friendly recommendations, emphasizing the importance of Integrated Pest Management (IPM), Integrated Weed Management (IWM), and Integrated Nutrient Management (INM). These strategies aim to enhance crop health and productivity while promoting sustainable agricul-

#### Midstream Processing

Sustainable processing practices



- Quality Assurance such as energy efficient operations and minimizing the use of harmful chemicals
- Maintaining traceability back to the FPOs and verifying sustainability credentials of the final product
- Continued NGO involvement by providing technical assistance and monitoring compliance with sustainability standards

#### **Trading**

Our partnership with Nallavur Farmer Producer Company Limited has proven highly successful in the trading of groundnuts. During this period, we purchased a total of 45 metric tons of groundnuts from Nallavur FPCL. Additionally, we provided a fair trade premium of ₹2.37 for the 80 metric tons sold last year.

This collaboration underscores our commitment to supporting local farmers and enhancing their profitability. By offering competitive prices and ensuring prompt payment, we help Nallavur FPCL's members secure the best market value for their produce. Our ongoing partnership is a testament to the mutually beneficial relationship we strive to build with our suppliers, making our groundnut trading business a profitable venture for all involved.



#### Downstream Impact

- FPOs gain access to premium markets through Agrocrops
- Improved livelihoods of groundnut farmers due to fair trade practices
- The adoption of sustainable farming practices promoting environmental stewardship
- Strengthening rural communities such as improved education, healthcare and infrastructure in farming communities

Agrocrops values its association with Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) as a key component of its commitment to sustainable agricultural practices and community engagement. Our collaboration with FPOs involves supporting their growth and development through capacity-building initiatives, providing technical assistance, and facilitating access to resources and markets. This partnership helps FPOs enhance their operational efficiency and sustainability, leading to better outcomes for their members and the broader agricultural community.

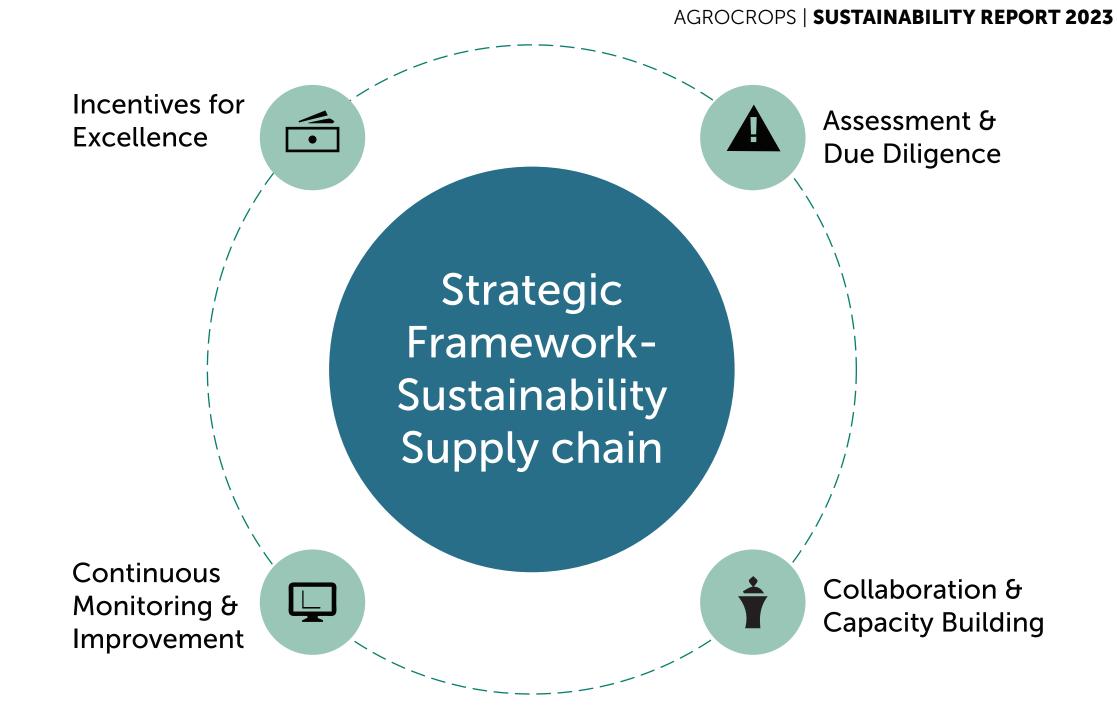
By working closely with FPOs, Agrocrops strengthens its supply chain, promotes sustainable farming practices, and contributes to the overall development of rural economies. This association aligns with our values of corporate responsibility and environmental stewardship, ensuring that our operations benefit not only our business but also the farmers and communities we serve.

# Sustainable Sourcing

Our commitment to a sustainable supply chain guides our daily operations, allowing us to meet today's needs while promoting sustainable development across the entire value chain.

Sustainable supply chain is crucial for Agrocrops's operation as it aligns with responsible business practices and global sustainability goals. By integrating environmental, social, and ethical considerations into our procurement process, we ensure the resilience and longevity of its supply chain while contributing to positive social and environmental impacts. Our Sustainable Procurement Policy prioritizes sourcing materials and services from suppliers who demonstrate strong environmental management practices, uphold fair labour standards, and adhere to ethical business conduct. Our key priorities include environment stewardship, social responsibility, ethical business conduct and product quality and safety. To ensure the key priorities are met, we have built a robust framework to ensure

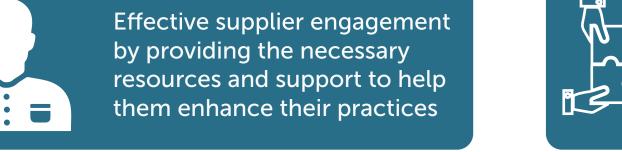
We prioritize minimizing our environmental impact, promoting fair labor practices, and supporting community well-being, which aligns with our ethical values and enhances Agrocrops's reputation as a socially responsible organization. Sustainable procurement is a key part of our strategy, driving corporate responsibility and long-term success. To support this initiative, we have implemented management systems that meet the ISO 20400:2017 standard for Sustainable Procurement, reinforcing our commitment to responsible sourcing across our supply chain.





Minimizing environment impact through efficient use of resources and minimizing waste



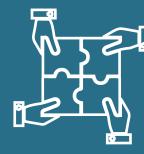




Training and equipping our procurement team with the necessary knowledge and skills



Emphasizing longevity and recyclability by having a sustainable product design



Aligning our procurement practices with sustainability goals through effective stakeholder engagement



Decisions that prioritize community impact enhancing the well-being of residents



Prioritizing human rights ensuring that all individuals are treated with dignity and respect



Establishing clear policies and conducting assessments to ensure that no children are exploited



Embracing a circular economy by reducing waste and extending the lifecycle of products



Supporting fair labour practices and ensuring transparency throughout the supply chain



Adhering to established standards and certifications meeting environmental and social benchmarks



Supporting mental and physical health initiatives for workers

# Talk on Sustainable Sourcing

# What's the ESG Score of Your Peanut Supply?



Mr. Venkateshwarlu CH **Assistant Manager - Sustainable Sourcing** Agrocrops



Our sustainable sourcing framework is unique and bespoke, aimed at addressing the macro challenges by connecting the micro problems and opportunities. The goal is to integrate while positively impact communities—why not? It's a long-term approach, and a bold one at that. As an organisation, we persistently tackle our failures until we find success. This initiative should be particularly interesting, as it has the potential to redefine the industry and set industry benchmarks.

When we discuss our sustainable sourcing framework, we aren't just talking about data and informatics; it goes beyond that. We ask, how can we produce more and better while elevating communities? Our vision for sustainable sourcing is circular, commercially viable, and impactful—this is what gives us our competitive edge, driving growth.

The peanut industry is vast and diverse, requiring a holistic and patient approach. However, the potential for positive impact is immense. Our B2B sustainably sourced peanut brand, "n," embodies the Golden Framework for Sustainable Sourcing of Peanuts. Success for us means being able to measure, calculate, and analyse the ESG scores of our peanut supplies, creating value that goes far beyond just the nut.



# Traceability

Agrocrops' traceability strategy is a cornerstone of its commitment to quality and transparency. By implementing a comprehensive traceability system that tracks peanuts from farm to gate, Agrocrops ensures that its products meet the highest standards of safety and quality, fostering trust and confidence in our system.

Agrocrops is dedicated to institutionalizing non-human, systems and process-driven, sustainable models of traceability that benefit both our business and that of our customers. We strongly believe that step 1 leads to step 10 in a consistent fashion. What began as a data logging assignment is now transforming

Agrocrops is a leader in creating a peanut supply chain with scoring based on sustainability frameworks that are unique in the industry.

#### Traceability Scale as of 2023:

Domestic Trading Business

30%

traceable from Sheller to Customer

**Export Business** 

80%

traceable from Shipper to Customer

Consumer Business

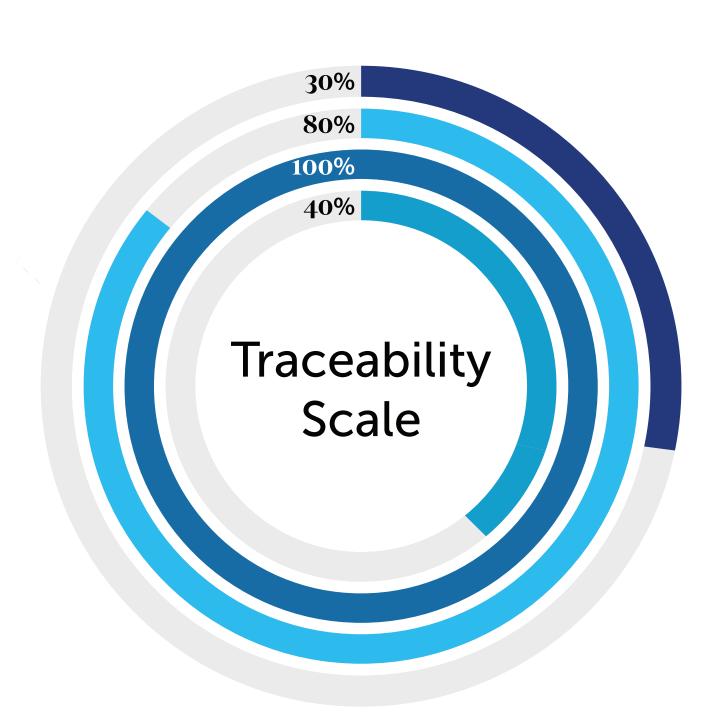
100%

traceable from farmer to customer

Value-Added Business

40%

traceable from farmer to customer





The next phase of our traceability program is centered on ESG variables, allowing us to take a holistic approach and provide our customers with sustainably sourced peanuts.

### ANNEX

# Fairtrade



#### Fair Pricing

#### Fairtrade Minimum Price

Agrocrops guarantees that farmers receive a Fairtrade Minimum Price for their produce, which acts as a safety net to protect them from volatile market conditions. This ensures that farmers can cover their production costs and maintain a sustainable livelihood, even when market price falls.

#### Fairtrade Premium

In addition to the minimum price, Agrocrops pays a Fairtrade Premium, which is an extra sum of money that goes directly to farmers and farming communities. This premium is often used to invest in social, economic, or environmental projects, such as building schools, improving infrastructure, or adopting sustainable farming practices.



#### **Ethical Working Conditions**

#### **Labor Standards**

Fairtrade certification requires Agrocrops to comply with strict labor standards, including ensuring that workers have safe working conditions, fair wages, and the right to form and join trade unions. The certification also prohibits child labor and forced labor, aligning with international human rights standards.

#### **Gender Equality**

Agrocrops is committed to promoting gender equality through its Fairtrade practices. This includes supporting equal opportunities for women in farming and ensuring that women have access to training, resources, and leadership roles within farming cooperatives.



#### **Environmental Sustainability**

#### **Sustainable Farming Practices**

Fairtrade standards promote environmentally sustainable farming practices. Agrocrops works with farmers to minimize the use of harmful chemicals, protect natural resources, and promote biodiversity. The certification encourages Good farming methods and supports the transition to more sustainable agricultural practices.

#### Climate Resilience

Fairtrade certification also focuses on building climate resilience among farmers. Agrocrops provides training and resources to help farmers adapt to the impacts of climate change, such as shifting weather patterns and increased pest pressure.

#### Consumer Confidence

The Fairtrade label on Agrocrops products assures consumers that the products they are purchasing have been produced in a socially and environmentally responsible manner. This transparency builds trust with consumers who are increasingly concerned about the ethical and environmental impact of their purchases.



#### **Community Development**

#### **Investing in Communities**

The Fairtrade Premium allows Agrocrops to invest in community development projects that improve the quality of life for farmers and their families. This may include projects related to education, healthcare, clean water, and infrastructure development.

#### **Empowerment of Farmers**

Fairtrade certification empowers farmers by giving them a stronger voice in the supply chain. Agrocrops works closely with farmer cooperatives to ensure that they have a say in how the Fairtrade Premium is used and that they benefit directly from the certification.

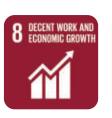
Agrocrops' achievement in Fair-trade certification reflects its commitment to ethical trading practices, social responsibility, and sustainability. Fairtrade certification ensures that the company adheres to rigorous standards that promote fair working conditions, environmentally sustainable practices, and equitable trading relationships with farmers.













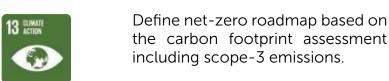


# Our KPIs

#### **Environment**

#### **SDGs**

#### **Strategic Objectives**



 Established the GHG emissions baseline inventory for Scope 1, 2, and 3, enabling us to define targets.

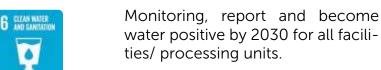
Action plan(s)

➤ Identifying net-zero alliances and pledging for carbon neutrality, collaborating with industry partners to accelerate the efforts.



Set up solar power plants (reduce the dependency on scope-2 emissions).

- ✓ Identified energy intense sites in the operation.
- > Conducting feasibility analysis and project plan for the identified sites.



- Revitalized ponds for farmers for irrigation.
- > Rejuvenating farm wells enabling rain water harvesting.



Improved soil health for farmer producers/suppliers: reduced use of chemical application and improved organic carbon through supply of biological farm inputs under FPO procurement under sustainable farming capacity building- establish baseline of farmers in 2024 and set reduction targets.

- Conducted soil nutrition development programs through the promotion of farmyard manure and micro-nutrient applications for FPOs in Tamil Nadu.
- ☐ Target programs to expand our success stories by collaborating with other FPOs in the Agrocrop's value chain through.

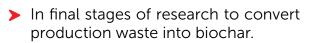




Improved biodiversity through tree plantation/ afforestation in own facilities and in partnership with FPOs for farmers.

- Provided 10,000 tree saplings to FPOs in partnership with NAPP.
- ☐ Identify strategic partnership to improve the afforestation programs like Miyawaki, sampling plantation,





Develop fortified biofertilizer, that transforms soil fertility for thriving ecosystems.

#### Social

#### **Strategic Objectives SDGs**





- Implementation of sustainable procurement:
- Complete supply chain traceability - 75% by 2030.
- Fairtrade certification by FPO farmers – 50% by 2030.
- Continue to upgrade and obtain existing and new sustainability certifications.
- Fairtrade, GlobalGAP, ProTerra and ISCC, etc.

#### Action plan(s)

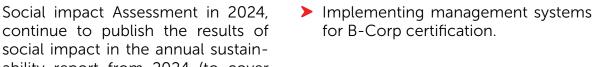
- ✓ Obtained Fairtrade certification for 1000 farmers.
- ✓ Global GAP certification for 12 farm-
- > Obtaining Rainforest Alliance certification for 300 farmers.

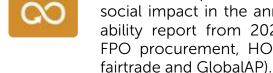


#### Workers economic development, health and safety:

- · Establish formal contract for temporary workers by 2025, 50% by
- 100% compliance with minimum wages in CY 2024.
- Continue to ensure prevention of child labour, forced/compulsory labour of 100%
- Continuous trainings on workplace safety, professional development.

- Conducted annual awareness training sessions on safety, include mock drills and emergency preparedness
- > Annual training plan for health and safety for employees, and farmers.

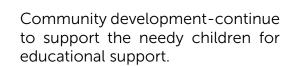




- continue to publish the results of social impact in the annual sustainability report from 2024 (to cover FPO procurement, HOPE program,
- > Expanding the collaborations with Expansion of community engage-FPOs to improve the sustainable prothrough partnerships (SDG-17) for the sustainable manduction, through fair trade practices. agement of groundnut and chilly
  - > Implementing i-Nut and geotagging practices to enhance food security and traceability.







production (SDG-12) FPO procure-

ment from the current 1% to 6% by

2024 and 22% by 2030 - also

addresses food security (SDG-2),

food safety/ traceability.

✓ Identified the families in need and invested in their child's education

#### Governance

#### **Strategic Objectives**

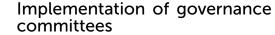
#### Action plan(s)



SDGs



goals.



Monitoring and Reporting on grievance mechanism, whistle blower policy, health and safety committee, anti-corruption policy, code of ethics, etc.

✓ Formed the governance committee and identified key members.

> Implementing the objectives, roles and responsibilities of the commit-



Obtain Boorp certification (ESG) in CY 2024 for the group company.

> Implementing management systems for B-Corp certification.

We believe that businesses hold a key responsibility in fostering peace and prosperity for both people and the planet, today and for future generations. At Agrocrops, we are actively contributing to several of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), as outlined by the United Nations' 193 Member States. Through our initiatives in sustainable agriculture, supporting smallholder farmers, and promoting environmental stewardship, we are aligning our operations to advance these global



















ANNEX

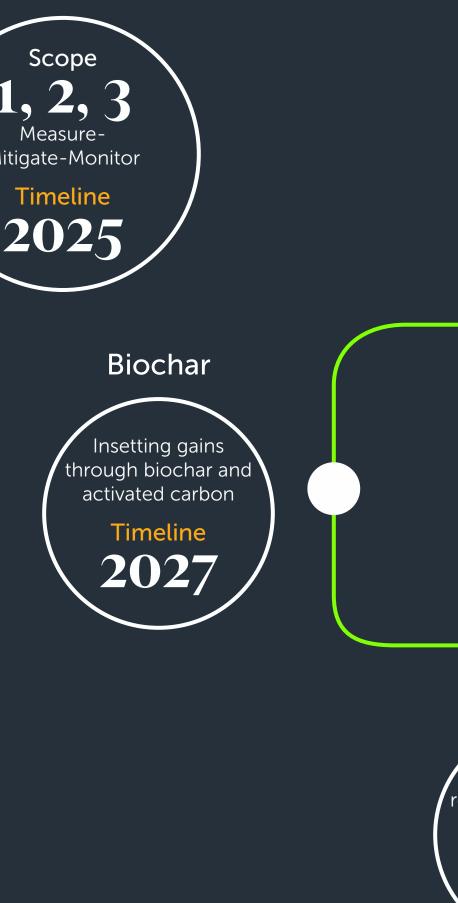
Systematic measurement of ESG to evaluate supply chain Timeline **2025 ESG ERP** 

# Net Zero + Roadmap 2030

Although we measure Scope 1, 2, and 3 emissions, our NET+ strategy is committed to ensuring that our peanut supplies become fully carbon neutral. This is not just a goal, but a challenge that pushes us to explore the delicate balance between convention and innovation.

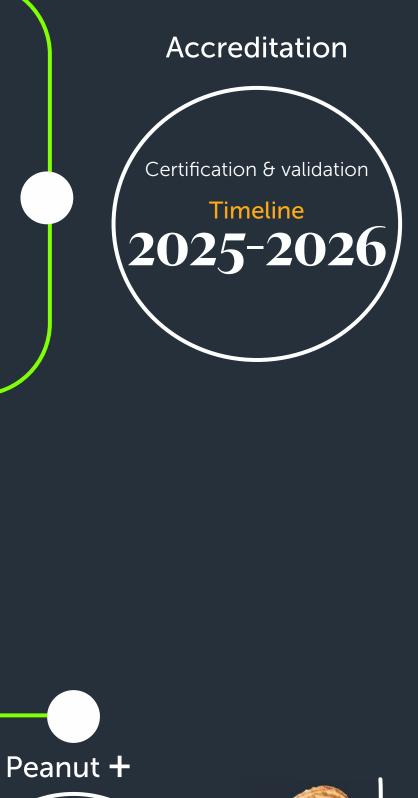
Our long-term ambition is to lead the peanut industry towards a carbon-neutral future, while continuing to deliver high-quality products to our clients, ensuring that both the environment and our supply chain partners benefit from this sustainable transformation in driving meaningful progress toward carbon neutrality.

## **GHG** Emissions Scope Measure-Mitigate-Monitor Timeline **2025** Biochar





Timeline

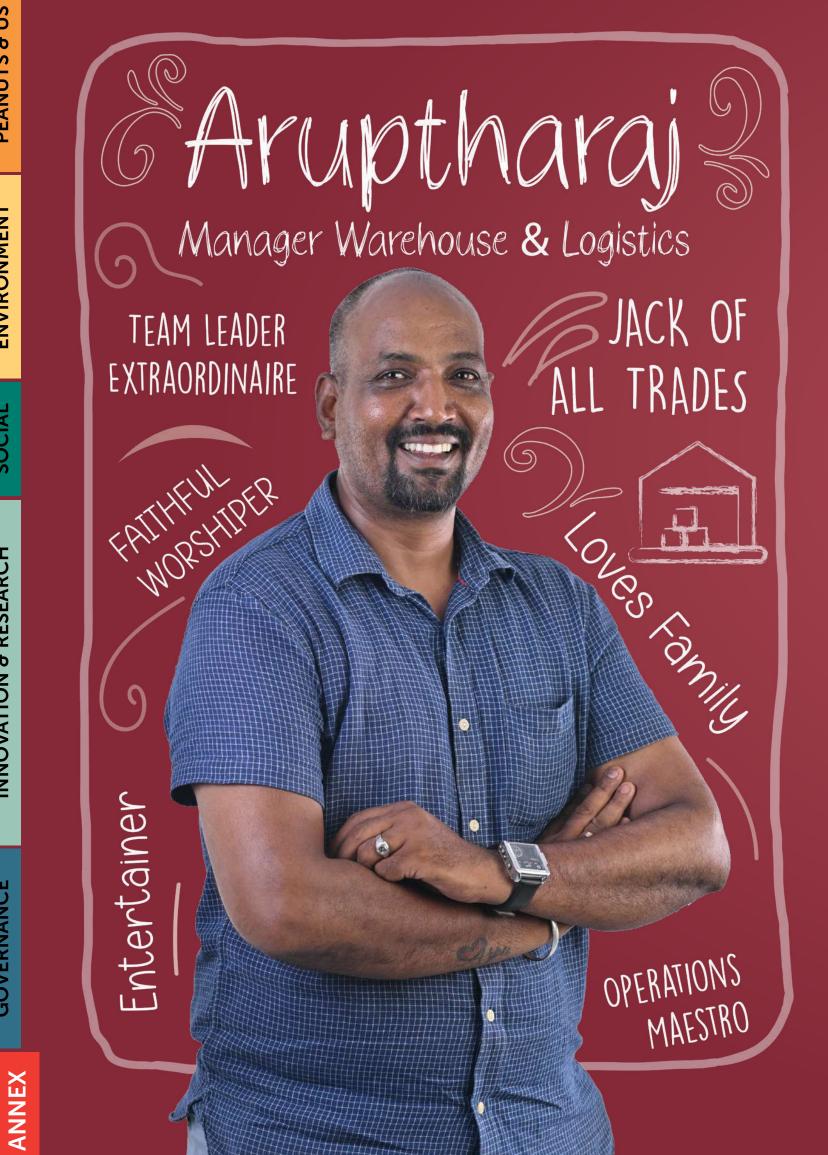




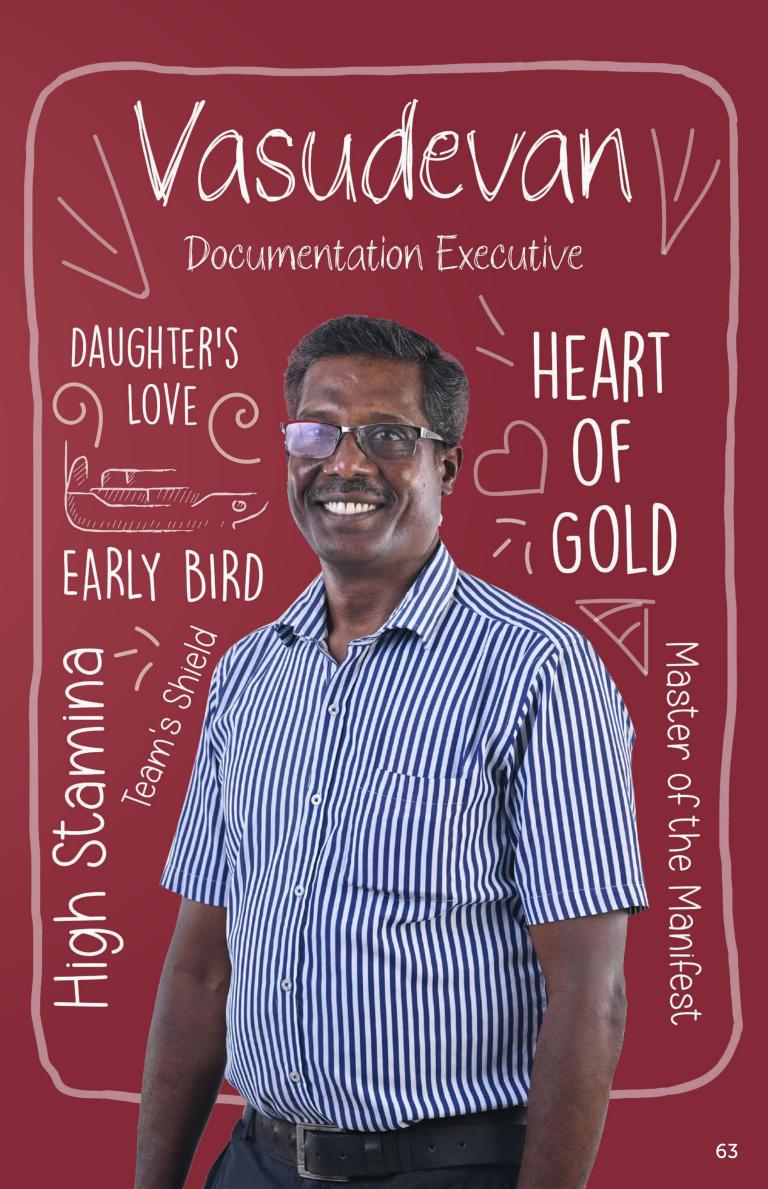


# Employee Spotlight

Honouring the People who Shape who We are







# GRI Index

Statement of use Agrocrops Inc	dia Private Limited has reported in accordan	nce with the GRI Standards for the period 2023.
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Statement of use	Agrocrops India Private Limited has reported in accordance with the GRI Standards for the period 2023.	
GRI 1 used	GRI 1: Foundation 2021	
Gri Standard/ Other Source	Disclosure	Location
General Disclosure		
GRI 2: General	2-1 Organizational details	About Agrocrops, page 10
Disclosures 2021	2-2 Entities included in the organization's sustainability reporting	As per the financial reporting boundary of Agrocrops India Private Limited
	2-3 Reporting period, frequency and contact point	Reporting Period: 2023 Frequency: Annual For any queries on this report, please contact i@agrocrops.com.
	2-4 Restatements of information	Not applicable
	2-5 External assurance	No External Assurance
	2-6 Activities, value chain and other business relationships	Sustainable Supply Chain, page 55
	2-7 Employees	Workforce Diversity, page 31
	2-8 Workers who are not employees	Workforce Diversity, page 31
	2-9 Governance structure and composition	Corporate Governance, page 47
	2-10 Nomination and selection of the highest governance body	Corporate Governance, page 47
	2-11 Chair of the highest governance body	Corporate Governance, page 47
	2-12 Role of the highest governance body in overseeing the management of impacts	Corporate Governance, page 47
	2-13 Delegation of responsibility for managing impacts	Corporate Governance, page 47
	2-14 Role of the highest governance body in sustainability reporting	Corporate Governance, page 47
	2-15 Conflicts of interest	Not applicable
	2-16 Communication of critical concerns	Not applicable
	2-17 Collective knowledge of the highest governance body	Corporate Governance, page 47
	2-18 Evaluation of the performance of the highest governance body	Not applicable
	2-19 Remuneration policies	Not applicable
	2-20 Process to determine remuneration	Not applicable
	2-21 Annual total compensation ratio	Not applicable
	2-22 Statement on sustainable development strategy	Our KPIs, page 60
	2-23 Policy commitments	Governance & Policies, page 52
	2-24 Embedding policy commitments	Governance & Policies, page 52
	2-25 Processes to remediate negative impacts	Our KPIs, page 60
	2-26 Mechanisms for seeking advice and raising concerns	Governance & Policies, page 52
	2-27 Compliance with laws and regulations	Not applicable
	2-28 Membership associations	Transforming Indian Agriculture, page 51
	2-29 Approach to stakeholder engagement	Stakeholder Engagement, page 18
	2-30 Collective bargaining agreements	Not applicable
Material Topics		
GRI 3: Material Topics 2021	3-1 Process to determine material topics	ESG Materiality Matrix, page 17
	3-2 List of material topics	Materiality Assessment, page 16

Other Source	Disclosure	Location
Economic performance		
GRI 3: Material Topics 2021	3-3 Management of material topics	Materiality Assessment, page 16
GRI 201: Economic Performa	nce 2016 201-1 Direct economic value generated and distributed	Not reported as we are in the process of integrating business operations
	201-2 Financial implications and other risks and opportunities due to climate change	Not reported as we are in the process of integrating business operations
	201-3 Defined benefit plan obligations and other retirement plans	No retirement plans
	201-4 Financial assistance received from government	No financial assistance received from the government during the reported year
Market presence		
GRI 3: Material Topics 2021	3-3 Management of material topics	Materiality Assessment, page 16
GRI 202: Market Presence 2016	202-2 Proportion of senior management hired from the local community	100% of our senior management is from local community
Indirect economic impacts		
GRI 3: Material Topics 2021	3-3 Management of material topics	Materiality Assessment, page 16
GRI 203: Indirect Economic Impacts 2016	203-1 Infrastructure investments and services supported	Confidential data. Hence not reported
	203-2 Significant indirect economic impacts	Confidential data. Hence not reported
Procurement practices		
GRI 3: Material Topics 2021	3-3 Management of material topics	Materiality Assessment, page 16
GRI 204: Procurement Practices 2016	204-1 Proportion of spending on local suppliers	100% of our suppliers is from local suppliers
Anti-corruption		
GRI 3: Material Topics 2021	3-3 Management of material topics	Materiality Assessment, page 16
GRI 205: Anti-corruption 2016	205-1 Operations assessed for risks related to corruption	Our entire operations are assessed and we are corruption free
	205-2 Communication and training about anti-corruption policies and procedures	Our induction training covers anti-corruption policies and procedures. We regularly conduct business ethics training to all our employees.
	205-3 Confirmed incidents of corruption and actions taken	No corruption incidents reported in the reporting year
Anti-competitive behaviour		
GRI 3: Material Topics 2021	3-3 Management of material topics	Materiality Assessment, page 16
GRI 206: Anti-competitive Behaviour 2016	206-1 Legal actions for anti-competitive behaviour, anti-trust, and monopoly practices	No legal actions reported in the reporting year
Water and effluents		
GRI 3: Material Topics 2021	3-3 Management of material topics	Materiality Assessment, page 16
GRI 303: Water and	303-1 Interactions with water as a shared resource	Water Stewardship, page 25
Effluents 2018	303-2 Management of water discharge-related impacts	No water effluents in operations
	303-3 Water withdrawal	The water withdrawn is for domestic use only.
	303-4 Water discharge	Water discharge is not currently measured. The effluents contain domestic waste only.
	303-5 Water consumption	The water consumption is for domestic use only.

**GRI Index Continue** 

Gri Standard/ Other Source	Disclosure	Location
Emissions	Discosure	Location
GRI 3: Material Topics 2021	3-3 Management of material topics	Materiality Assessment, page 16
GRI 305: Emissions 2016	305-1 Direct (Scope 1) GHG emissions	Climate Change, page 24
	305-2 Energy indirect (Scope 2) GHG emissions	Climate Change, page 24
	305-3 Other indirect (Scope 3) GHG emissions	Climate Change, page 24
	305-4 GHG emissions intensity	Climate Change, page 24
	305-5 Reduction of GHG emissions	Climate Change, page 24
Waste		
GRI 3: Material Topics 2021	3-3 Management of material topics	Materiality Assessment, page 16
GRI 306: Waste 2020	306-1 Waste generation and significant waste-related impacts	Waste Management, page 26
	306-2 Management of significant waste-related impacts	Waste Management, page 26
	306-3 Waste generated	Waste Management, page 26
	306-4 Waste diverted from disposal	Waste Management, page 26
	306-5 Waste directed to disposal	Waste Management, page 26
Employment		
GRI 3: Material Topics 2021	3-3 Management of material topics	Materiality Assessment, page 16
GRI 306: Waste 2020	401-2 Benefits provided to full-time employees that are not provided to temporary or part-time employees	Workforce Welfare, page 30
	401-3 Parental leave	Parental leave was not availed during the reporting peri
Occupational health and sa	fety	
GRI 3: Material Topics 2021	3-3 Management of material topics	Materiality Assessment, page 16
GRI 403: Occupational \	403-1 Occupational health and safety management system	Health & Safety, page 32
Health and Safety 2018	403-2 Hazard identification, risk assessment, and incident investigation	Health & Safety, page 32
•	403-3 Occupational health services	Health & Safety, page 32
	403-4 Worker participation, consultation, and communication on occupational health and safety	Health & Safety, page 32
	403-5 Worker training on occupational health and safety	Health & Safety, page 32
	403-6 Promotion of worker health	Health & Safety, page 32
	403-7 Prevention and mitigation of occupational health and safety impacts directly linked by business relationships	Health & Safety, page 32
	403-8 Workers covered by an occupational health and safety management system	100% of our workers are covered by an occupational health and safety
	403-9 Work-related injuries	No work related injuries reported in the reporting perio
	403-10 Work-related ill health	No work related ill health reported
Diversity and equal opportu	inity	
GRI 3: Material Topics 2021	3-3 Management of material topics	Materiality Assessment, page 16
GRI 405: Diversity and Equal Opportunity 2016	405-1 Diversity of governance bodies and employees	Workforce Diversity, page 31

Gri Standard/ Other Source	Disclosure	Location
Non-discrimination		
GRI 3: Material Topics 2021	3-3 Management of material topics	Materiality Assessment, page 16
GRI 406: Non-discrimination 2016	406-1 Incidents of discrimination and corrective actions taken	No incidents reported
Freedom of association and	d collective bargaining	
GRI 3: Material Topics 2021	3-3 Management of material topics	Materiality Assessment, page 16
GRI 407: Freedom of Association and Collective Bargaining 2016	407-1 Operations and suppliers in which the right to freedom of association and collective bargaining may be at risk	Not applicable
Child labour		
GRI 3: Material Topics 2021	3-3 Management of material topics	Materiality Assessment, page 16
GRI 408: Child Labor 2016	408-1 Operations and suppliers at significant risk for incidents of child labour	Child Labour Prohibition, page 53
Forced or compulsory labo	ur	
GRI 3: Material Topics 2021	3-3 Management of material topics	Materiality Assessment, page 16
GRI 409: Forced or Compulsory Labor 2016	409-1 Operations and suppliers at significant risk for incidents of forced or compulsory labour	Forced/Compulsory Labour Prohibition, page 54
Public policy		
GRI 3: Material Topics 2021	3-3 Management of material topics	Materiality Assessment, page 16
GRI 415: Public Policy 2016	415-1 Political contributions	Not applicable



# Disclaimer

Although it is true that all peanuts in the world originated from a single hybridization event through the cross-pollination of two bean species, our disclaimer is as follows:

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