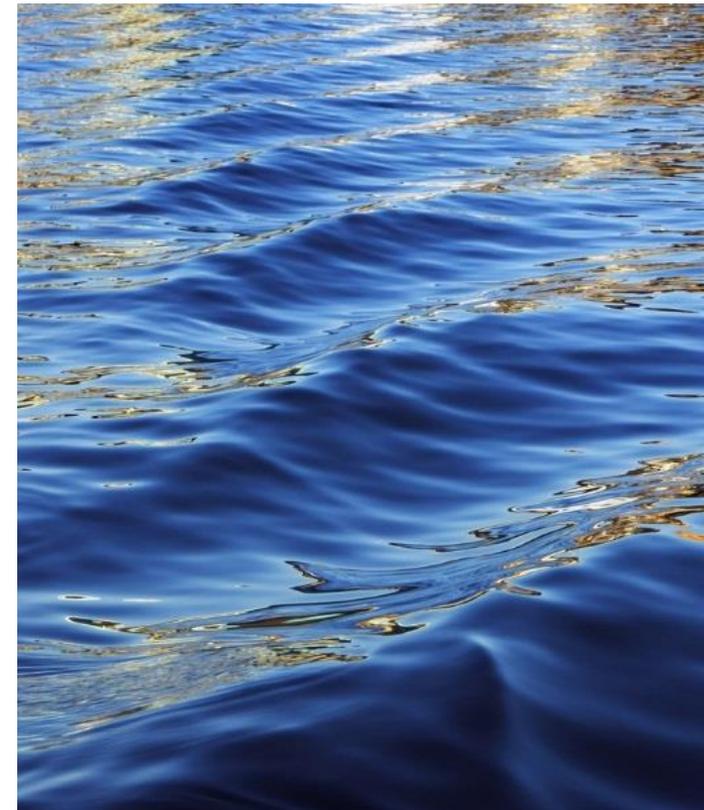




Environmental risks in Human Rights Due Diligence

Agri-food supply chains



Food Products



Responsible Business Conduct Food Agreement



Koninklijke Nederlandse
SPECERIJENVERENIGING

SINCE 1916

Ministerie van Buitenlandse Zaken



Cordaid



Ministerie van Landbouw,
Natuur en Voedselkwaliteit

Agenda

1. Introduction

2. Human rights and the environment

- Human Rights Due Diligence and the environment
- Frameworks and commitments
- Responsibilities

3. Systemic issues require multi-stakeholder approaches

4. Specific environmental risks and solutions directions

Participants

Which type or organization do you represent?

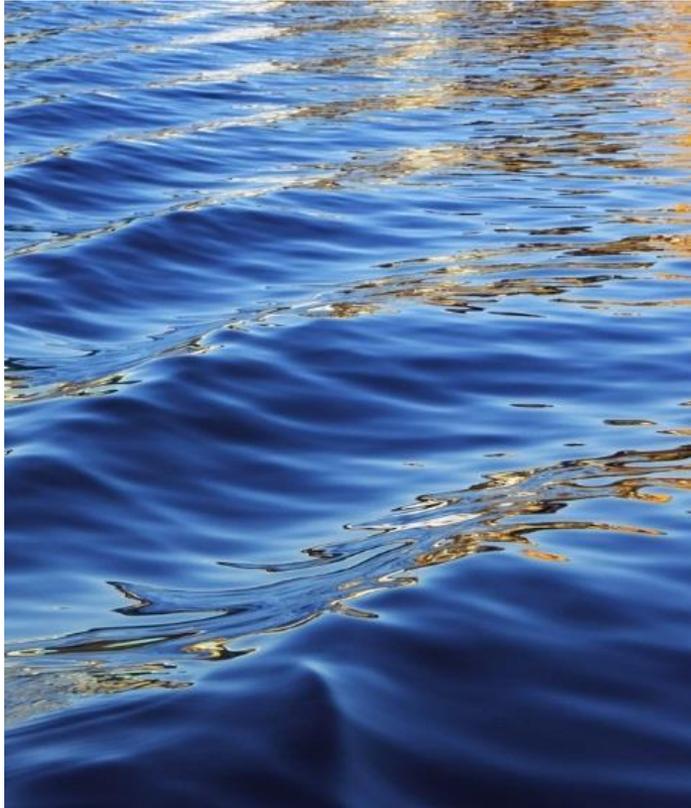
Private / Public / Research / Civil Society organizations / Other

Go to: www.menti.com

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Human rights and the environment

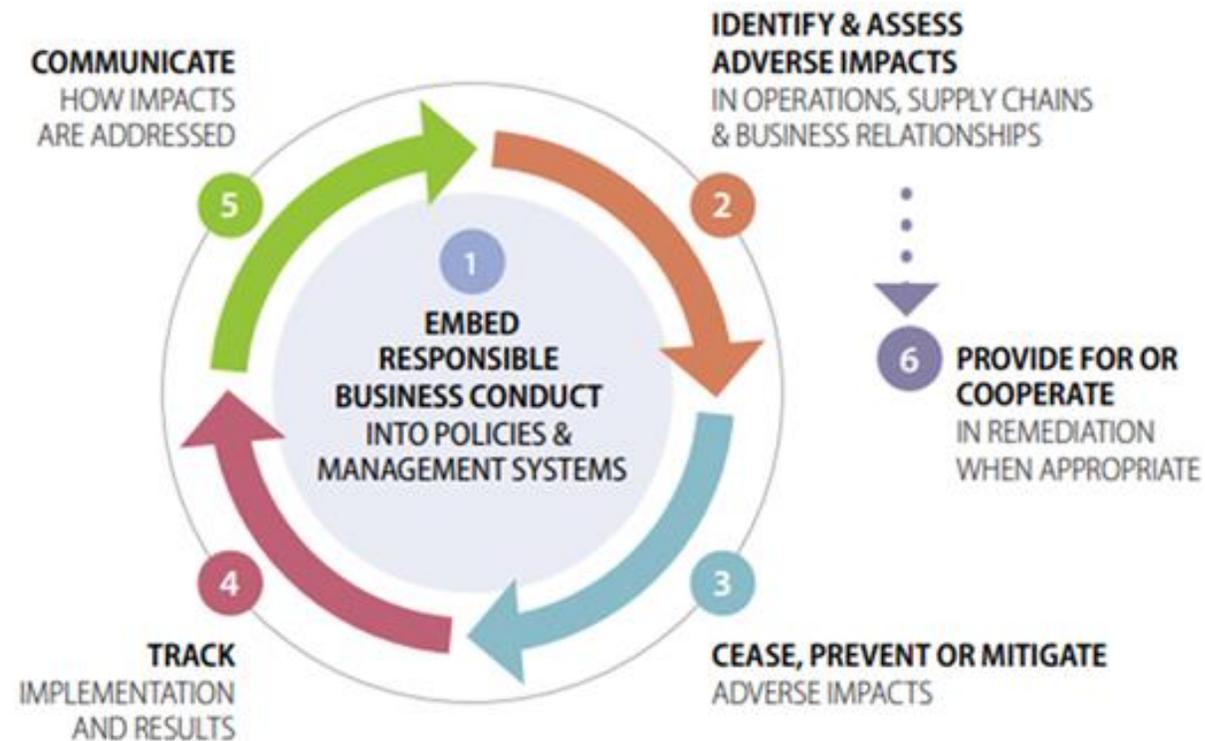


Human Rights and Environmental Due Diligence (HREDD)

The process	WHAT IS IT?
Enterprises should carry out to	WHO IS RESPONSIBLE?
Identify, prevent, mitigate and account for how they address	WHAT DO THEY DO?
Actual and potential adverse impacts in	WHAT IS THE FOCUS?
Their own operations Their supply chain Other business relationships	WHERE IN OPERATIONS?

Source: OECD (2018) OECD Due Diligence Guidance for Responsible Business Conduct, Chapter 1, p.15

Six step approach of OECD Due Diligence guidelines



Source: OECD Due Diligence guidance for responsible business conduct

OECD guidelines (chapter 6)

“Enterprises should protect the environment, public health and safety and contribute to sustainable development”

Taking into account:

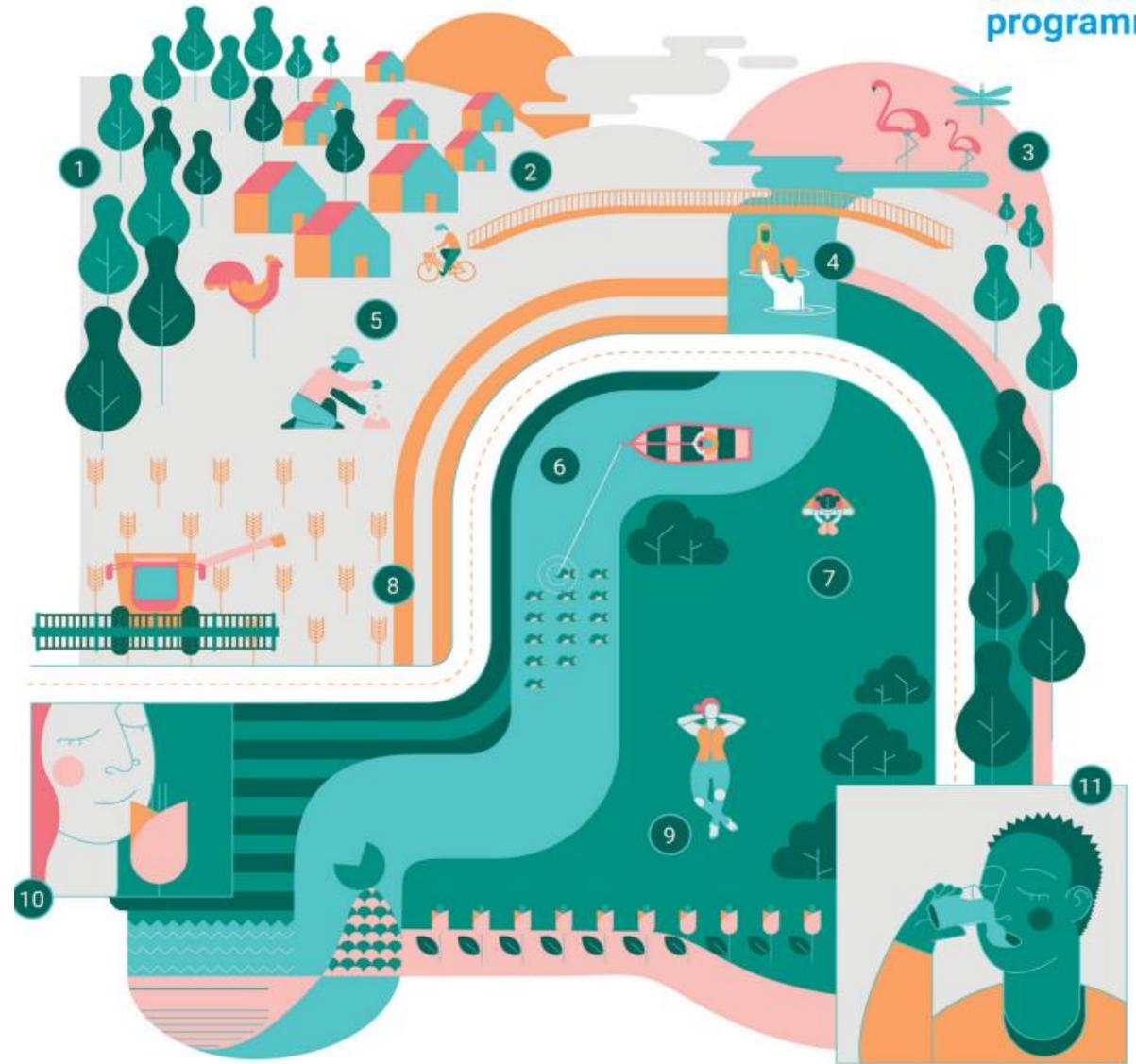
- In-country frameworks and practices
- International frameworks and objectives



Human right

The right to “a clean, healthy and sustainable environment”

Was recognised as a human right on October 8 2021 in the Human Rights Council’s Resolution 48/13.



Human Rights and the Environment

Source: [Human Rights and the Environment, UNEP](#)

Commitments

UN Climate Change Conference 2021

141 countries committed to:

- work collectively to halt and reverse forest loss and land degradation by 2030
- while delivering sustainable development
- and promoting an inclusive rural transformation.



Sustainable Development Goals

In particular the following goals:



What is the role of governments?

Policies and governance on different levels:

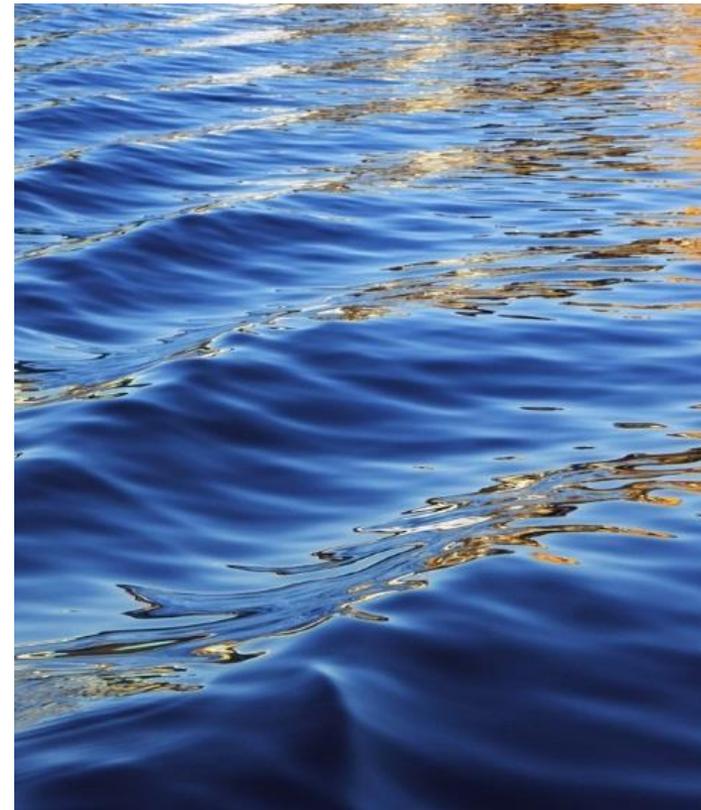
- Sectoral
- Local
- National
- International
- Bilateral level

Example: Certain agrochemicals are forbidden or restricted in use in i.e. the Netherlands or the European Union, but not in all the countries Dutch or European buyers source from.





Environmental risks



Environmental impacts



The environmental impact of agriculture is the effect that different practices along the supply chain have on the ecosystems around them.

Environmental risks

Which environmental risks are most salient in agricultural supply chains ?

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Environmental impacts of agriculture



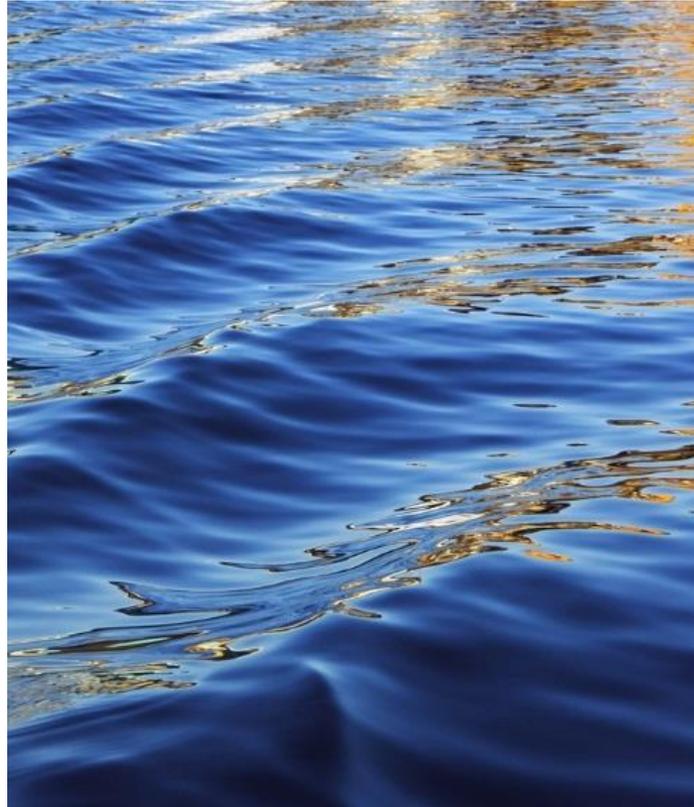
Water issues	Air pollution	Land degradation	Loss of biological diversity
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Groundwater depletion from irrigation • Pollution from fertilizer and pesticide runoff • Sediment pollution from eroding soil particles • Pollution from animal wastes (livestock factories) • Enrichment of surface water from fertilizer runoff and livestock wastes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pesticide sprays • Soil particles from wind erosion • Odors from livestock factories • Greenhouse gases from combustion of fossil fuels • Other air pollutants from combustion of fossil fuels 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Soil erosion • Loss of soil fertility • Soil salinization • Soil pollution (pesticide residues) • Waterlogged soil from improper irrigation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Habitat fragmentation (clearing land and draining wetlands) • Monocultures (lack of diversity in croplands) • Stressors from air and water pollution • Stressors from pesticides • Replacement of many traditional crop and livestock varieties with just a few

Overview movie





Systemic issues and multi stakeholder approaches



Example of direct and indirect effects



Combat
pests

Reduction
crop losses

Food Safety risks

Human health risks

Eco system disbalance

Interview with Maaïke Snel

Kunzila

Integrated sustainable development plan



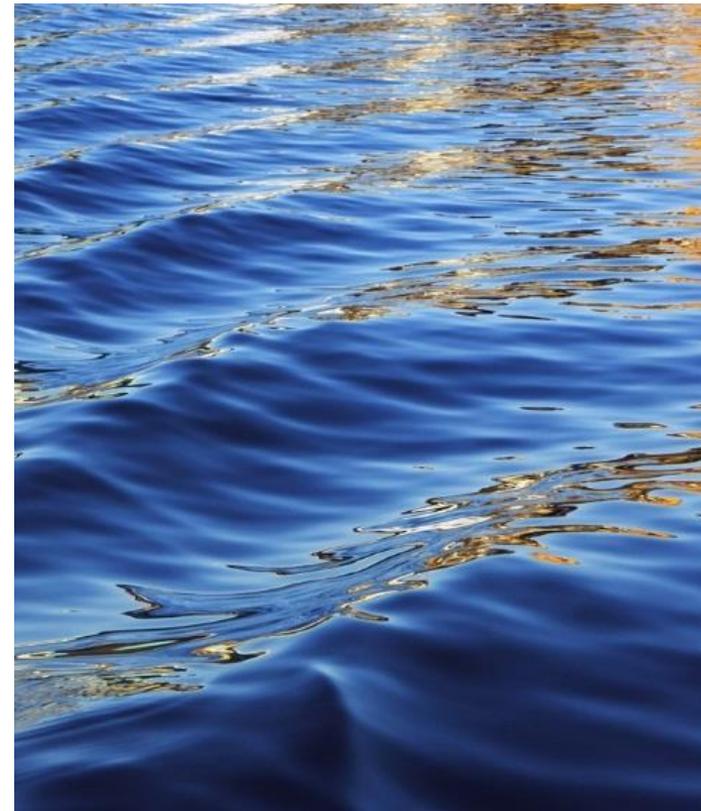
Program manager International territorial development

RVO



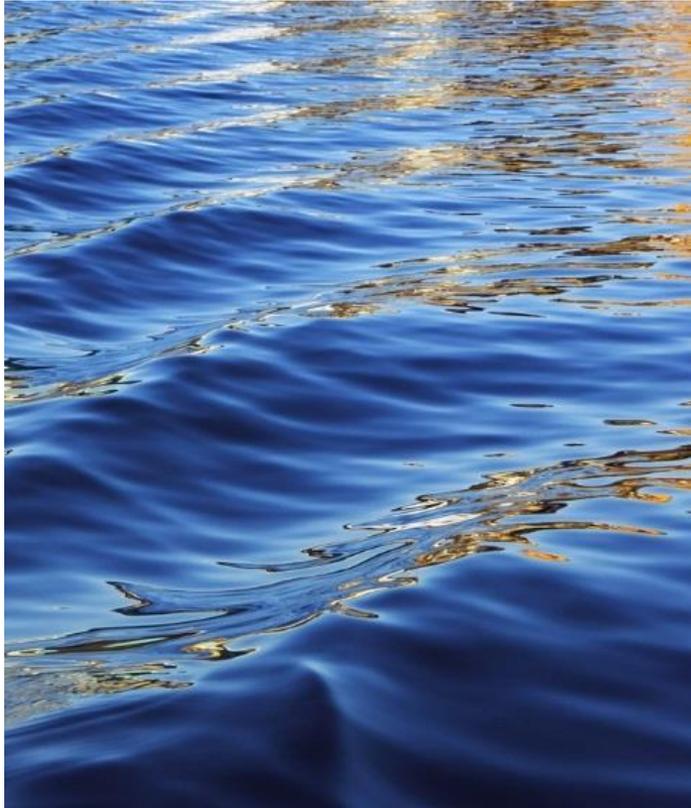


Questions & Answers





Zooming in on some
specific risks



Water issues



Problems that may occur due to poor water management:

- Salinization
- Erosion
- Water scarcity
- Flooding
- Pollution



Water management

- Irrigation systems (i.e. drip irrigation)
- Drainage systems
- Sustainable water use and conservation
- Waste-water management



Air pollution

Problems that may occur due to air pollution:

- Health issues
(i.e. skin rashes, lung, hart, cancer)
- Acid rain
- Global warming



Combating Air pollution

- Sustainable land clearing methods and agro-forestry practices
- Integrated pest management
- Lower emissions through extensive livestock management
- Sustainable waste management



Technical innovation

Land and soil degradation

Problems that may occur due to land and soil degradation:

- Loss of soil fertility leading to reduced harvests
- Increased use of fertilizers and other chemicals
- Erosion and desertification
- Nutrient imbalance and Organic matter loss
- Acidification and Salinization
- Water depletion and flooding





Combating land and soil degradation

- Intercropping
- Buffer zones
- Terraces
- Rotation of crops
- Agroforestry
- Use of cover crops
- Land use planning and inclusive soil governance
- Invest in sustainable soil management
- Advocacy/awareness raising/training
- Stop degradation by technology
- Keep the surface covered, minimum
- Reduce erosion, rehabilitate and restore
- Use nutrients wisely
- Waste disposal and waste water treatment



Interview with Paul Wolvekamp



Expert agri commodity supply chains, land rights,
Indigenous knowledge

Both Ends

RSPO board member initiator dispute facility

Interview with Paul Wolvekamp



Expert agri commodity supply chains, land rights,
Indigenous knowledge

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Expert agri commodity supply chains, land rights,
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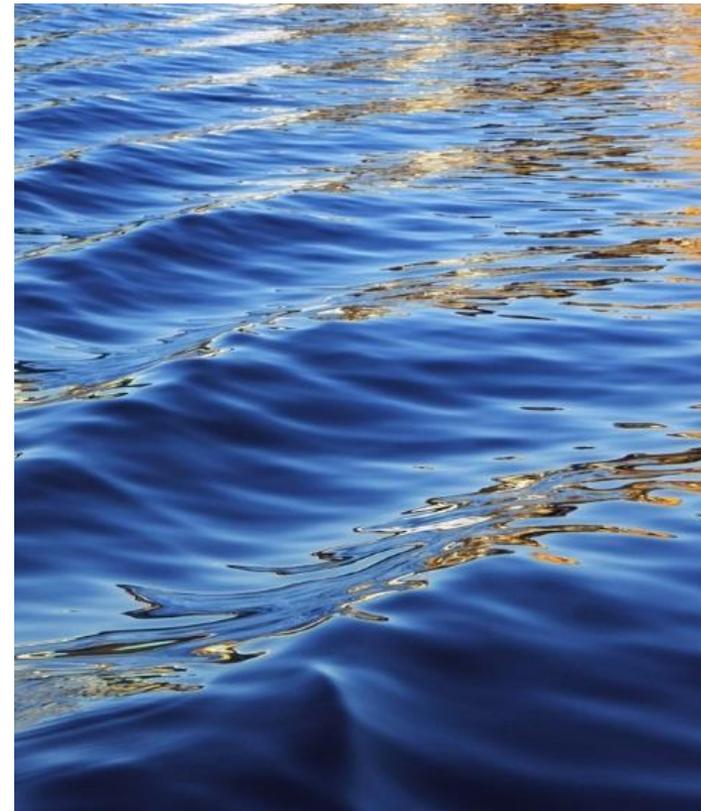
Both Ends

RSPO board member initiator dispute facility





Questions & Answers



Loss of biological diversity

Problems that may occur due to loss of biological diversity:

- Reduced soil fertility leads to increased use of fertilizers and other agro-chemicals
- Resistance for pesticides
- Eco-system disturbance
- Harmful effects traditional food crops



Combating loss of biodiversity

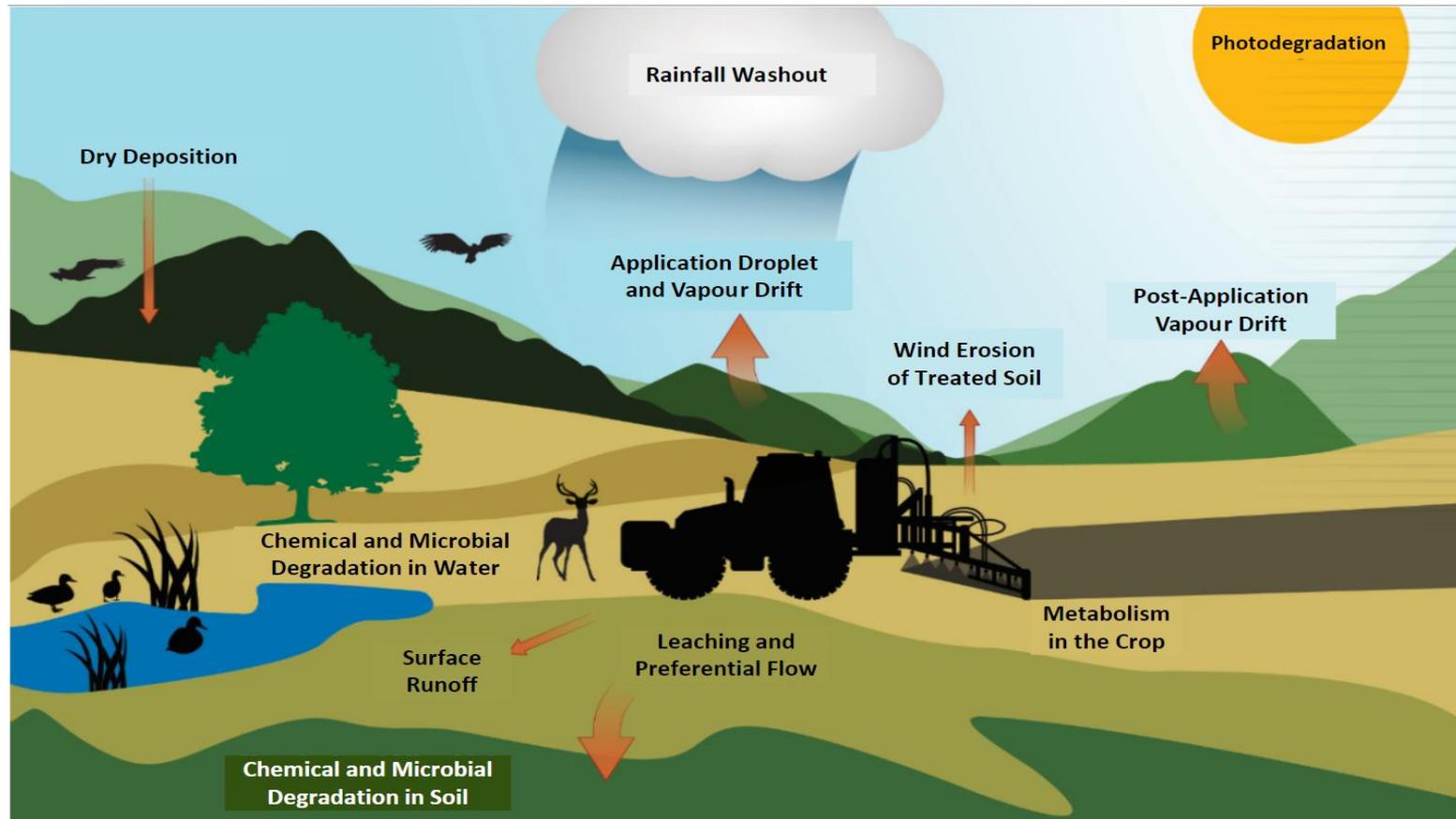
- Intercropping
- Respecting traditional food systems
- Rotation of crops



Agrochemicals linked to many environmental impacts

- Biodiversity loss
- Soil degradation
- Water degradation
- Food safety issues
- Health issues

64% of global agricultural land is at risk of pesticide pollution from the lingering residue of chemical ingredients that can leach into water supplies and threaten biodiversity and health



Interview with Coen Frederiks

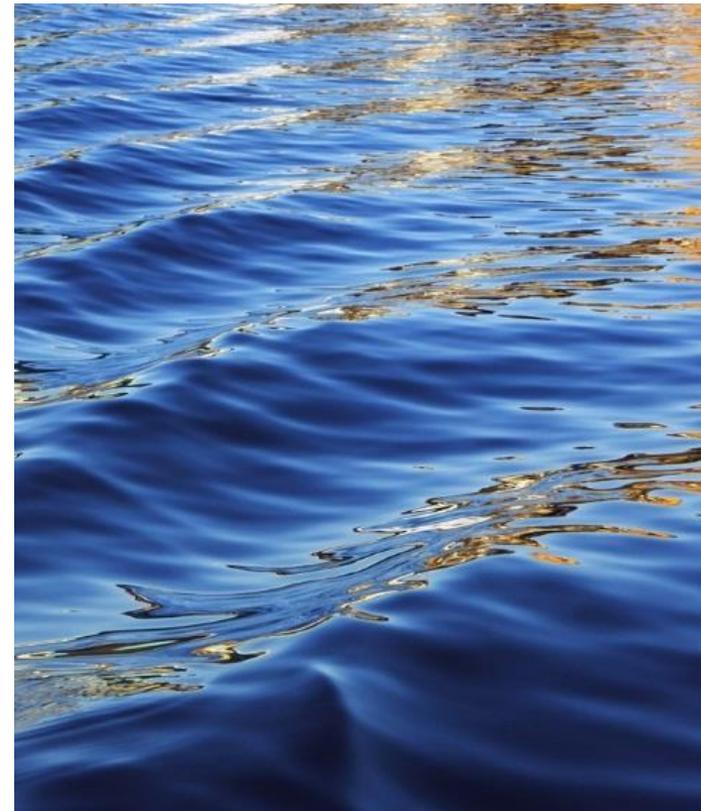


**Program officer
Fresh and Ingredients**

IDH

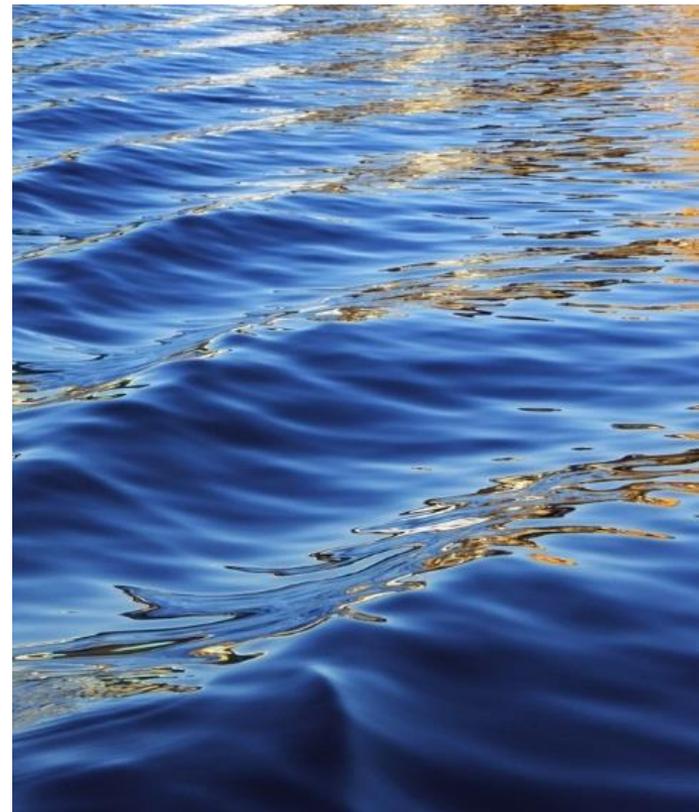


Questions & Answers





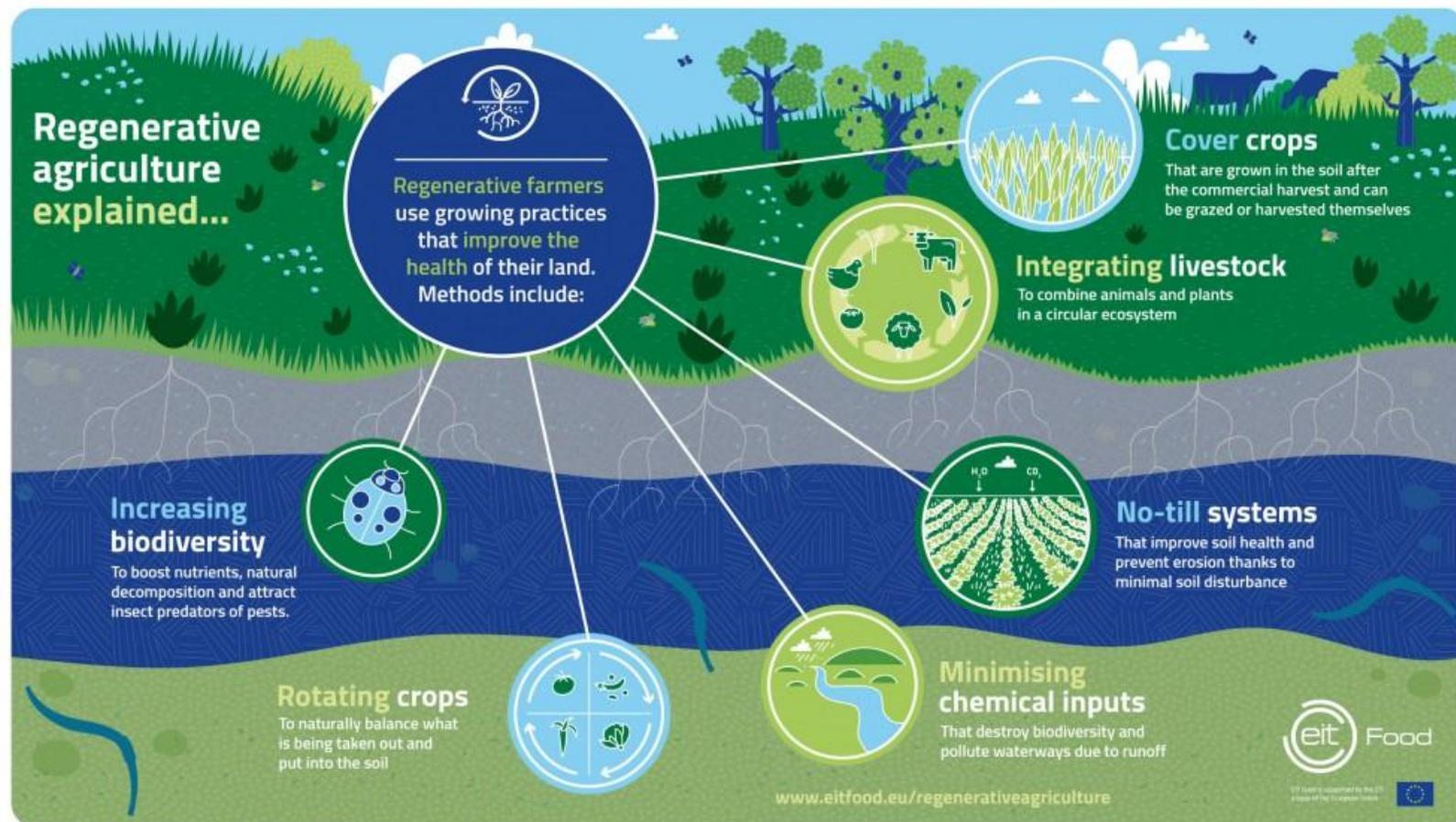
To conclude



Future of agriculture: regenerative farming

Key principles:

1. Minimising soil disturbance
2. Minimising the use of chemical inputs
3. Maximising biodiversity, both animals and plants
4. Keeping the soil covered with crops as long as possible
5. Adapting to the local environment



Key takeaways

- Environmental rights are an integral part of the human rights. Environmental and social risks are often interlinked. Consider the environment to be a stakeholder at risk
- Governments must protect, businesses must respect, and people must exercise environmental rights if we wish to tackle environmental challenges.
- Environmental risks often go beyond farm premises and often require systemic and multi-stakeholder approaches
- To prevent and cease adverse environmental impacts knowledge of the fully supply chain is crucial, including the farming practices and related environmental risks
- There are various environmental risk scans and standards that can support in the prevention and identification of environmental risks
- Regenerative forms of agriculture are needed to make agriculture sustainable. Getting there is a complex and lengthy process, but the combination of voluntary commitments and mandatory HREDD legislation will force both companies and governments to step up.

Further training and contact

Regional training on conducting risk assessments

- East - Africa: Entebbe Uganda, 17-19 May 2022
- Latin - America: Bogotá Colombia, 14-16 June 2022
- Asia: Bangkok Thailand, 11-14 July 2022
- West - Africa/ MENA: Morocco, 26-29 September 2022

Roadshow for Dutch companies on Human Rights Due Diligence

- Questions and further information: secretariaatIMVO@ser.nl

Want to know more about the OECD guidance?

[OECD e-learning](#) Academy on Responsible Business Conduct

OECD e-learning Academy
on Responsible
Business Conduct

Register now &
learn with us!

OECD

The graphic features a large laptop as a central element. On the screen, there is a play button icon, a speech bubble, and a magnifying glass. To the left of the laptop are two large books, one orange and one green. A person in a blue shirt is standing next to the books, holding a pencil. Another person in a white shirt is sitting on the floor to the left, reading a book. A yellow cup with pens and pencils is on the right. A green checkmark icon is at the bottom center. The background is a solid blue color.



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