

Regenerative Agriculture Conference: 5-6th April 2022, California, US

Day 1	
08:00	Registration & Networking
09:00 10 mins	Chair's Opening Remarks & Setting the Scene
09:10 50 mins	<p>Keynote Panel Discussion: Can Regenerative Agriculture be the Answer to the Current Industry Issues?</p> <p>According to the FAO, an estimated 52% of the land used for agriculture worldwide is moderately or severely degraded, meaning, simply “sustaining” it, isn’t enough. The impact of such degradation on broader climate concerns such as biodiversity, water resources, food security and carbon emissions can’t be ignored, but is regenerative agriculture really a panacea for the food system as a whole and with no universally accepted standard, how should we be defining “regenerative agriculture”?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Does regenerative agriculture need a label, or should we focus more on the measurable outcomes rather than the definition? ● Are the actors in the food system ready and willing to adopt regenerative methods, and if not, what’s preventing change at each level of the supply chain? ● What benefits do we associate with regenerative practices and do these reverse or supersede the problems faced by the food system? ● Do the benefits of moving to regenerative practices justify the financial burdens during the transition period? ● How do we see this changing over time?
10:00 30 mins	<p>Developing Fit-for-Purpose Regulations</p> <p>Policy has, without question, a major impact on our food system, and consumer pressure and supply chain alone can’t create regulations and frameworks, which are good for our farmers, people and the planet. Creating these standards takes time - we need to assess the impact this has on the market as a whole - but with time in scarce supply and a growing sense of urgency looming, when can we expect regulations and policy to take hold?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● What standards are already in place and how do these vary between states and borders? ● What impact does this have on the food system as a whole? ● Should policy alone take the lead on championing regenerative practices as an alternative business model? ● Will regulations have a bigger role to play as concerns continue to grow over meeting the UN’s Sustainable Development Goals?
10:30 30 mins	Morning Break
11:00 50 mins	Panel Discussion: Limiting Factors Inhibiting Regenerative Agriculture Uptake

	<p>One of the biggest obstacles facing regenerative agriculture is adoption. Change is hard, often expensive, requires industry-wide buy-in and moreover it rarely comes with guarantees of success. One thing most of us agree on however, is that the food system is broken and as such, not changing isn't an option anymore. So, what exactly is preventing higher adoption rates of regenerative practices and how can we ultimately overcome them?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Finance - are there ways for various stakeholders to maintain business health and viability through transitioning? ● Farming Conditions - how do we overcome concerns over reduced yield, soil erosion, contaminated water and soil, as well as different weather conditions such as flooding, droughts, strong winds and weather changes associated with climate change impacting our crops? ● Scale - are regenerative practices scalable and what impact does this have over key issues such as transition periods, cost and profit margins? ● Education - is a lack of education preventing communities from having awareness and understanding of regenerative agriculture and how to approach it? ● Culture - is there a way to bring a community together, either vertically or horizontally, to embrace culture and create a stronger community that is more easily able to work together in adapting to regenerative practices?
<p>11:50 60 mins</p>	<p>The Innovation Showcase</p> <p>In this one-of-a-kind session, we invite a select number of exciting, innovative AgTech start-ups to demonstrate their ideas to the audience, as well as a group of investors. The premise is simply, they have 5 minutes to showcase their innovation and 10 minutes to take Q&A.</p> <p>Feedback is critical to innovation, and as the audience you have a chance to not only submit questions to our moderator, but to also vote on whether, if it were your money, you would invest in a potentially game-changing idea.</p> <p>Stay tuned for more exciting updates on this years' line-up!</p>
<p>12:50 60 mins</p>	<p>Lunch Break</p>
<p>13:50 30 mins</p>	<p>The Real Cost of Change</p> <p>As with anything, change comes at a price. Whether it is people, processes or technology (or a combination of all three), transitioning to regenerative agriculture will involve costs. But who should fund the initial transition to regenerative practices? Is this the responsibility of the farmers and producers at the start of the supply chain and does the Growing Climate Solutions Act fairly compensate their efforts?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Incentives, subsidies, grants or private finance? Which works best for your ambitions? ● What role should wholesalers, CPGs and retailers play in this? ● How do we balance cost and ROI against broader socio-economic and climate goals? ● Should we charge a premium for regeneratively farmed produce and will consumers pay for it?
<p>14:20 50 mins</p>	<p>Open Q&A Panel: The Transition Period - How Long is a Piece of String?</p> <p>As one of the most widely-debated topics throughout research, our panel will base their</p>

	<p>discussion around pre-requested questions from the audience on the timeframe for transitioning, bringing to light common issues and potential resolutions, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What do we consider the average transition time for farms moving to regenerative practices to be? • Is scale a factor in this? • How does this differ from the perceptions of other actors in the food system? • What are the common contributing factors and implications we associate with timescale? • How does this impact the bottom line of farmers and growers? • How does this impact corporate activities further along the supply chain? <p><i>*If you would like to partake in the questions to be asked please submit these in the morning/at lunch via the questionnaire/app.</i></p>
<p>15:10 30 mins</p>	<p>Afternoon Break</p>
<p>15:40 30 mins</p>	<p>The Mutually Beneficial Role of Livestock within Regenerative Agriculture</p> <p>Many commentators argue that reintegrating animals into crop production reduces costs associated with fertilizer, animal feed, labour and machinery. In addition, it also improves soil fertility by increasing soil microbial density and organic matter due to increased levels of manure. This in turn helps sequester more carbon from the atmosphere. In order to achieve this however, it requires time, training, knowledge, and in some cases workload, particularly in respect to soil management. In this session, we take a closer look at exactly how livestock can effect regenerative practices, tackling issues such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are the pros and cons of integrating livestock into crop production? • Are animals right for your system, and if so, which animals? • What role can technology play in helping us manage livestock and crop rotation as efficiently as possible? • How much extra work and knowledge is required to integrate livestock effectively?
<p>16:10 50 mins</p>	<p>Closing Panel Discussion: If it Matters, it Produces Controversy</p> <p>Regenerative agriculture is fraught with debate over key issues such as standards, measurement, accountability, demand and even the methods that constitute regenerative practices. We all understand that collaboration across the supply chain is critical in pushing this forward, but difficult questions often require difficult answers. In this open, candid discussion, we hear first-hand, how some of the industries foremost thought-leaders tackle some of the most commonly associated debates with regenerative farming, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does regenerative have to be organic? • Will certification really empower farmers and help foster consumer awareness and demand? • Is restoration of soil health and the rise in carbon offsetting a perfect match or a disaster waiting to happen? • How prevalent is greenwashing within sustainable and regenerative farming?
<p>17:00</p>	<p>Chair's Closing Remarks</p>
<p>End of Day 1</p>	

Day 2

09:00	Chair's Opening Remarks
09:10 50 mins	<p>Panel Discussion: Measuring Regenerative Efforts to Improve Accountability & Transparency in the Supply Chain</p> <p>One of the biggest criticisms levelled at the industry as it stands is that of transparency, accountability and how this is measured. Yesterday we discussed key issues surrounding standards, methods and timeframes, and in this opening session we take this one step further, taking a more detailed look at how regenerative practices are currently being measured and benchmarked. Topics for discussion include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Can a set of measurable outcomes be expanded upon and pursued industry-wide?• What do we believe is the knock-on effect of this and how does this affect the supply chain?• How is it that businesses can operate under a regenerative title without the need to meet structured criteria?• Who or what can help us accurately measure change and is a data-driven democracy from producer to consumer the answer?• What role can technology play in ensuring accountability and transparency remains consistent across the supply chain?
10:00 30 mins	<p>Case Study: Statistical Analysis of a Farm's Before and After Adoption of Regenerative Practices</p> <p>Join us, as we deep-dive into the before, during and after stages of a transition to regenerative practices. This case study not only provides tangible insight into what change looks like at ground level, but also demonstrates how to overcome critical inhibitors, such as finance, yield and compatibility. Split into three main topics, we'll be addressing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Financial viability - comparing cash flow before and after alongside the costs associated with the move to regenerative agriculture• Productivity - Evaluating how systems can be altered to improve efficiency, yield and quality of product• Cross compatibility - compare and contrast the methods and processes used and how this can be applied to other businesses
10:30 30 mins	Morning Break
11:00 50 mins	<p>Panel Discussion: Back to the Future Farming</p> <p>The irony of regenerative agriculture is that prior to the use of chemical fertilizers and commercial farming, many indigenous and traditional methods would be classed nowadays as "regenerative". That said, hindsight is indeed a wonderful thing, and our understanding of how nature and technology can work harmoniously is growing daily. In this discussion we reflect back to previous farming practices and their regenerative properties/abilities, but with a focus on how new-found and innovative technology is creating a new frontier of farming:</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is technology alone the answer? • Which traditional practices do we feel could be partnered with modern day technology to generate the best possible outcomes? • How should technology continue to evolve in order to further this concept effectively and efficiently?
11:50 30 mins	<p>Fireside Chat: Community, Culture & Local Knowledge Development as an Element of Regenerative Agriculture</p> <p>Within farming, rural and local economies are at the heart of everything, from farm-to-fork initiatives, to farmers markets and locally sourced produce. Given regenerative agriculture's need for heightened consumer awareness and demand, this local knowledge and understanding is one of the few opportunities producers get to interact directly with consumers. In this fireside chat, we talk to one such producer, who opens up on how valuable local and consumer feedback can be. Key topics include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How are community, culture and local knowledge relevant to regenerative agriculture? • How can including community, culture and/or local knowledge in any given strategy, be beneficial to your business model? • What impact do regenerative strategies have on the wider community, outside the more traditional supply chain? <p><i>*If you would like to partake in the questions to be asked please submit these in the morning/at lunch via the questionnaire/app.</i></p>
12:20 60 mins	<p>Lunch Break</p>
13:20 50 mins	<p>Panel Discussion: Carbon, Biodiversity and Chemical Levels in the Soil</p> <p>As Dr. Rattan Lal states, "carbon is the determinant of healthy soil. The reason that soil life is much more diverse in healthy soil is because organic carbon is the food for soil organisms. Thus, the healthier the soil, the higher the percentage of organic carbon, providing more diverse populations with the ability to thrive". Whilst this addresses obvious sustainability concerns, healthier soil, water retention and nutrient cycling also improves the yield and quality of produce and as such is seen as the cornerstone of regenerative agriculture. In this discussion, our panel of experts tackle the all-important topics of carbon, chemical levels and soil health, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What changes in soil health can we realistically expect over short-, medium- and long-term timeframes? • Why is there no Healthy Soil Act in the same way there's a Clean Air and Clean Water Act? • What role can precision technology play in monitoring and improving factors such as erosion, leaching, decomposition and volatilization? • What impact do we feel the rise in carbon offsetting is likely to have on sustainable, organic and regenerative farming practices?
14:10 30 mins	<p>Case study: Is Smart Ag the Answer?</p> <p>Regenerative or not, we still require great produce and to achieve the best quality and yield possible. As we've already discussed, smart technology can be used to measure pretty much</p>

	<p>anything, from pH, chemical or pesticide levels, water quality, nutrient density etc. but once you've taken the decision to make changes to your existing practices, that's just the tip of the iceberg. In this session we explore the unspoken truths around the implementation and integration of Smart Ag and what this really entails. From selecting the technology that's right for you, to ensuring it works effectively, this first-hand account assesses the successes and setbacks in all its glory!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What impact has data and IoT had on your business? • Were the outcomes immediate? • How tricky was it to integrate and what major obstacles did you have to overcome? • What would you do differently if you could start over?
<p>14:40 30 mins</p>	<p>Afternoon Break</p>
<p>15:10 50 mins</p>	<p>Panel Discussion: Health of the Land Associated with Regenerative Agriculture</p> <p>It goes without saying that regenerative efforts can be beneficial to the land, and that this in turn can improve yield and quality. However, can the drivers of regenerative efforts be addressed effectively and in unison whilst also remaining operationally viable, or do we need to prioritise one aspect over another in order to maximize our efforts?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Should improving the biological composition of the soil as well as reducing erosion and use of toxic fertilizer chemicals take precedent? • How does effective water stewardship, reducing water consumption and contamination from surface runoff tie in? • Is supporting the surrounding ecosystem and increasing the biodiversity of both flora and fauna on and around the land a target or a bi-product of our efforts? • Ultimately, is it possible for businesses to work on all of these areas at the same time, and if not, which should take priority?
<p>16:00 30 mins</p>	<p>Knowledge is Power: Regenerative Agriculture Education Opportunities</p> <p>Providing education, research and training opportunities to all actors within the food system, as well as the next generation of producers and food system leaders is imperative to continue the efforts for both regenerative agriculture, but also broader efforts around food security, circular economy and the UN's SDGs. It can also provide support on specific challenges to individuals and businesses alike, such as food/product quality, risk management and profitability, but in a relatively speaking, young and emerging field, where should we turn?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What opportunities are available and who are they relevant to? • Do they cover commercial drivers as well as environmental drivers? • How accessible are these educational opportunities? • Are larger agricultural and food businesses beginning to play a more active role in research and education?
<p>16:30</p>	<p>Chair's Closing Remarks</p>
<p>End of Conference</p>	