

The Future of Food and Beverage USA

May 29th-30th 2024 | Minneapolis

How to craft strategy that embeds resilience, scales regeneration, and secures supply chains

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Day 0 – May 28th

3.00–5.00pm **Pre-conference: Regenerative farm visit**

5.30–7.00pm **Welcome drinks reception and early registration**

Day 1 – May 29th

8.30–9.00 Reimagining the Food System: The role of innovation in nourishing a sustainable world

Join us at the intersection of sustainability and innovation as we chat with Cargill's trailblazing leaders, Pilar Cruz, Corporate Senior Vice President, and Chief Sustainability Officer, and Florian Schattenmann, CTO and Vice President of Research & Development and Innovation. We'll discuss how sustainability and food innovations are reshaping supply chains, production and consumer experiences.

9.00–9.40 One year on: what progress have brands made towards a nature-positive food system?

- A brand target and performance update: Insight into where leaders have made progress, and where the challenges remain.
- Has nature become strategic? When will you need Science-Based Targets for Nature (SBTN)?
- How businesses can transition from pilot initiatives to driving a nature-positive approach at scale.

9.40–10.00 C-Suite leadership: How to translate sustainability commitments into action and cross-functional engagement

- How do you bridge the gap between sustainability commitments and practical, cross-functional implementation?
- Which metrics and KPIs have proven effective in measuring the impact of sustainability initiatives?
- What strategies can organizations employ to create AND sustain a culture of sustainability?

10.00–10.40 Break

10.40–11.00 How must policy evolve to incentivize and support the scaling of regenerative agriculture?

In this session we'll discuss the gap between emerging practices and the current policy/incentive landscape.

- How can big ag and its supply chain partners effectively shape the agenda to ensure regen is best supported at both state and national level?
- What are the value chain incentives that really work?

11.00–11.30 Public-private partnerships and blended financing: How can these be scaled?

- How can the experiences and lessons learned from the USDA's climate-smart commodities effort be used to guide future public-private partnerships in the agricultural sector, not only in the United States but also in the context of global climate resilience?
- Practical examples of blended finance working in practice and at scale.

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11.30-12.15 **How to enable scope III progress: accelerating affordable, transparent decarbonization**

- How to create a robust framework for collecting, assessing and validating enterprise Scope 3 emissions inventory to track and achieve enterprise decarbonization goals
- How to develop a strategic and comprehensive supplier community to onboard and spur action through education, collaboration and supplier target setting
- Practical examples of progress to date and the cost savings gained as a result

12.15-1.15 **Lunch**

1.15-2.55 **Breakout sessions**

* Our farmer first track will be moderated and led entirely by farmers

** The 5th Room is set up a little differently to other breakouts. There are no speakers. Instead we'll ask everyone in the room to participate and to contribute their thoughts, their experiences, and their mistakes. They're structured for a really honest conversation about the status quo and what needs to change to drive real progress.

Nature positive production	Reinforcing resilience and mitigating risk	Climate smart technology and innovation	Farmer first*	The 5th Room** <i>(max. 20 participants)</i>
<p>Digging deeper into soil</p> <p>What does the science tell us on impact and the challenge of permanence in GHG removals?</p> <p>How is soil measurement improving and what do we do, with this better data?</p>	<p>Enablement of Scope 3 Programs</p> <p>What is needed to drive collaboration across the supply chain?</p>	<p>Ruminant digestion and methane mitigation</p> <p>What are the innovations that can counter the methane emissions? Learn how to unlock the secrets of green grazing, feed additives and other smart science solutions.</p>	<p>Farmer data as currency</p> <p>Farmers are rightly concerned about data confidentiality. Brands and buyers need ever more data to ensure carbon and biodiversity targets are being met. How can this circle be squared?</p>	<p>Biodiversity anonymous</p> <p><i>Is a bee worth more than a worm? Do cuter animals with bigger eyes, get you more credit? What are the real trade-offs we are making now on nature, what can we learn? Find out here.</i></p>
<p>Precision agriculture</p> <p>What are the latest techniques to optimise soil health and crop productivity?</p> <p>What are the keys to advancing digital crop nutrition?</p>	<p>Beyond human rights compliance</p> <p>How to use mandatory due diligence and traceability innovation as a proactive tool in responsible sourcing</p>	<p>Measurement, reporting and verification</p> <p>What are the implications of new reporting rules, and how are they driving change in (1) what gets measured and (2) strengthening verification? What are the guidance and tools that can help?</p>	<p>Fostering farmer resilience</p> <p>Integrating regenerative agriculture and other sustainability initiatives come with initial cost. What are the measures that food companies must consider that ensure farmer resilience and incomes while they go through a period of transformation? Examples for practical action.</p>	<p>How the carbon markets can actually work in practice</p> <p><i>Good carbon credits are too expensive and bad ones are greenwashing. Insetting is still to scale. How do we cut through?</i></p>

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2.55-3.30 **Break**

3.30-4.10 **Breakout sessions: Case study workshops**

Nature positive production	Reinforcing resilience and mitigating risk	Climate smart technology and innovation	Farmer first*	The 5th Room** <i>(max. 20 participants)</i>
<p>Science-based targets for nature</p> <p>How business can integrate biodiversity and nature into climate action plans</p>	<p>How leading companies are working together to tackle food waste</p> <p>Climate change, economic inequality, conflicts and public health crises have fundamentally changed the way food is grown. Over 700 million are hungry while 1bn tonnes of edible food are wasted annually. The session will explore solutions to food waste including alternatives like bioconversion by insects. We will discuss innovative approach to food redistribution, management of food surpluses and in-store solutions to reduce waste.</p>	<p>Advanced water management</p> <p>Embedding water risk and resilience into your net-zero strategy. Practical examples explaining how to navigate usage, wastage and supply scarcity</p>	<p>Next-generation farmer empowerment</p> <p>Farming has become an unattractive occupation for young people in many growing regions. How can this be addressed? Some practical examples of how to empower and engage the next generation of farmers.</p>	<p>SBTi in the hot seat</p> <p><i>The Science Based Targets Initiative has had an enormous impact on corporate target setting. But has it become a victim of its own success? We'll assess SBTi's performance, governance and accountability, how it should evolve, and what companies can do to drive this forward.</i></p>

4.10-4.40 **Strategic innovation: A framework for prioritizing sustainability within R&D strategy**

To transition to a sustainable food system, brands must prioritize sustainability within R&D. It can't just be a box-ticking exercise. It must be embraced as a legitimate component of business strategy.

In this session, our expert speakers will reflect on how their businesses were able to establish a framework for sustainable innovation. By reflecting on their own experiences, they'll discuss how to legitimatise and standardise sustainability goals within R&D and across wider brand strategy.

4.40-5.00 **Navigating innovation at scale**

5.00-6.30 **Networking drinks reception**

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Day 2 – 30th May

8.30–9.00 **From traditional to cutting edge: practical examples of how farmers can shift to regenerative agriculture**

Growers share how they have introduced regen agri practices and discuss the immediate and long-term benefits they've identified.

- This is what business says it wants. What do farmers say companies should do to facilitate change?
- We always talk about who pays. What works in practice to drive regenerative practices at scale?

Broken promises. Past failures. Don't tell us what to do.

9.00–9.40 **From pilots to scale: how to develop successful regenerative frameworks**

Our panel responds to the challenges set out by the farmers and debate how to drive regenerative agriculture transformation.

- The cliché goes that pilots never fail, but pilots never scale. What are the practical strategic approaches that get beyond this?
- How does emerging regulation and mandatory reporting help?
- What are the innovative approaches to funding, and cross-value-chain cost sharing, that work?

9.40–10.20 **Food value chain transformation: reducing waste and spreading risk**

We know that food is chronically undervalued but what practical steps can address this and release resources to help fund change?

- Is it all just about tackling waste? How can this be achieved across supply chains?
- How does this square with the developed economy consumer obsession with cheap food?
- What is the role of business to help ensure equality of access to food and avoid food poverty?

10.20–10.50 **Break**

10.50–11.35 **Insetting 101: A practical guide to measure, verify and account for impact**

Insetting can reshape climate impact reduction in the food and agriculture industry. Nature-based solutions including agroforestry and other regenerative agriculture practices, sequester carbon and can contribute to net zero emissions strategy. While the potential is vast, there are concerns about lack of permanence and enforceable standards. We are still in the process of defining effective project parameters.

- Definitions: how is insetting different from carbon reductions within scope 3 supply chain GHG emissions?
- What are the key elements of an impactful insetting project? How can the impact be verified and measured?
- What are some best practice examples of insetting in within the food sector? What are the lessons learned?

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11.35-11.50 **How technology can deliver transparent, trustworthy and scalable nature-based solutions**

We know data is key. But how can we leverage these technologies to better inform decision-making, more effectively communicate with stakeholders and transform supply:

- How the latest tools and technologies are enabling real time supply chain visibility
- How can business measure, monitor and verify supply chain claims? What level of data granularity do we need?
- How to incorporate data into procurement systems and decision making
- How to translate complex data to stakeholders in a credible, meaningful and digestible way

11.50-12.30 **Voluntary to mandatory: The opportunities from transparency and disclosure**

The shift in reporting requirements on climate and nature, and the introduction of due diligence approaches, is potentially game-changing in developing a proper level playing field that allows for regenerative agriculture innovation. But how can companies unlock the benefits?

- Data: what are the data points to collect and verify? What tools are there to help?
- How are target setting, data collection, reporting and systemic improvements linked? A practical guide.
- Rewarding the brave: what are the safeguards necessary to ensure the necessary progress isn't stifled through concerns about transparency risks?

12.30-1.30 **Lunch**

1.30-2.50 **Roundtable workshops**

These roundtable discussions are focused workshops where industry leaders come together to craft practical solutions. The sessions aim to drive innovation and collaborative problem-solving within the food and beverage sector, addressing a range of sustainability challenges head-on.

- **Roundtable A: Biodiversity**

What are the most effective actions businesses can take to safeguard biodiversity within the food and beverage industry?

- **Roundtable B: Living income**

What concrete multistakeholder solutions can drive fair incomes across supply chains?

- **Roundtable C: Scope 3**

How can companies effectively map, measure, and manage their scope 3 emissions data?

- **Roundtable D: Nature-based solutions**

How can we practically implement and scale nature-based solutions within the food and beverage industry?

- **Roundtable E: Sharing the cost of food**

How can the gap between the price and value of food be bridged, ensuring fair and sustainable practices throughout the supply chain?

- **Roundtable F: Who pays?**

What financing models can effectively support agricultural transformation toward net-zero emissions?

- **Roundtable G: Food waste**

What are the quick wins for F&B brands to tackle food waste as a key driver of scope 3 emissions?

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- **Roundtable H: Food policy**

How should food policy adapt to promote sustainability and innovation in the US agriculture agenda?

2.50-3.15 **Setting the agenda for 2025: What are our goals and how do we measure success?**

To end the conference we will discuss some key practical action points that have emerged from the two days of discussion.

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