IMPACT REPORT

2025

Soil Heroes Foundation

INTRODUCTION

IT'S TIME TO DIG DEEP…

Back in 2019, the year the foundation was created, there was enormous optimism for a new future for soil. Soil science had once again come to the fore – pushing new research frontiers into soil biology. Innovative farmers around the globe were proving that regenerating agricultural soils could produce enormous benefits for farm resilience, natural capital, climate change and human health.

Investors were motivated by the new potential of carbon credits using soil as a carbon sink. And politicians were finally, realizing what many of us have known for decades, that the ongoing deterioration of our soils was becoming a real threat to society and thus in need of intervention. Seven years on, the growth in discourse on regenerative agriculture has been enormous.

A recent study by Kiss the Ground reported a 30% year on year increase in the number of companies adopting the terminology;

Large food companies are announcing their plans to invest millions in the sector and every week, invitations to attend new conferences and talks on regenerative agriculture land in our inboxes. And so yes, on the one hand there has been enormous positive change – in research, in policy, and in the number of farmers looking to understand regenerative agriculture. Just look at the growth of that wonderful regenerative festival, Groundswell.

But all this talk is covering up a much more worrying picture. Actual real systemic change on the ground remains minimal And as the giants of the food and agriculture product sector take control of the narrative, regeneration is being reduced to a narrow set of prescribed practices, rather than the holistic change needed to create real improvements in soils, biodiversity and ecosystem functioning.

Annabelle Williams
Executive Director
The Soil Heroes Foundation

The regenerative agriculture movement was started by farmers and alike who saw a vision for a systems change shift in the way we farm.

This movement provided hope and optimism for a new positive farming system

A movement that found a way to simultaneously address many of our global challenges, whilst supporting farmer livelihoods. And yet the adoption and oversimplification of this term by large food and ag giants risks undercutting and minimizing a once positive movement in its tracks.

Because treating regenerative agriculture as a set of isolated techniques rather than a whole-system change creates a reductive approach that ignores the ecological complexities of our soils. So now is not the time to sit back on our laurels and see how far this movement has come, but to dig deeper, and work with the regenerative community to ensure that the regenerative movement continues as a movement for the systemic shift in our approach to agriculture. And central to that is actual farm work – showing by doing – letting people see and understand it as a viable farming model and creating hard data to back it up.

2026 will be an important year in determining the future form of regenerative agriculture. And so with a number of very exciting projects up our sleeves, we enter this year positive and more determined than ever

TO CREATE A REGENERATIVE FUTURE.

GOVERNANCE

Stitching Soil Heroes Foundation is a non-profit Foundation, solely focused on serving the common good of the transition to regenerative agriculture.

OUR MISSION

To enable the long-term viability of people in harmony with the planet.

OUR GOAL

To stimulate and establish a regenerative society where the restoration of soil health, soil biodiversity and the production of food with a higher nutrient density is central.

OVERALL OBJECTIVE

To catalyze the transition to regenerative agriculture globally.

THE FUTURE

Restored soil health, biodiversity, water and air quality, new and fair business models for farmers, improved nutrient quality of our food and a more stable climate and healthy planet.

BOARD MEMBERS

MS. ANNELIES VAN DER VORM
[Chairwoman]
Impact investor

MS. ALEXANDRA KORIJN
[Secretary]
Co-founder at New AJE Capital
Board member at Toniic

MR. FREDERIC HOFFMANN
[Treasurer]
Food & agriculture deal sourcing for GO!

MEET THE TEAM

MELLANY KLOMPE

FOUNDER & VOLUNTARY CONSULTANT ON REGENERATIVE AGRICULTURE

Mellany is a co-founder of the Soil Heroes Foundation. She has a background in environmental science and previously worked for the Dutch Waterboard as well as a number of local government agencies. She is also on the Board of the Collective Cooperative for Hoeksche Waard. In this role she has been a driver in creating more than 800km of field margins and biodiversity lanes on the island of Hoeksche Waard to promote natural pest control, pollination, and biodiversity.

JEROEN KLOMPE

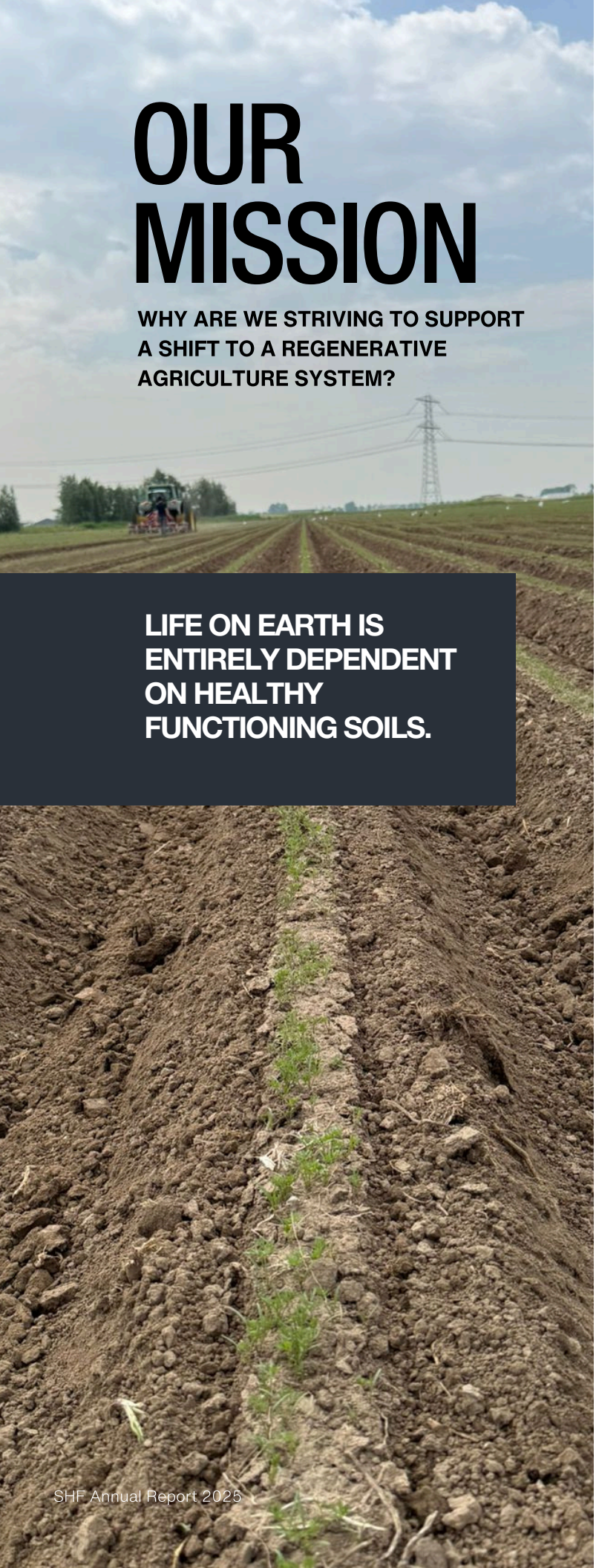
FFOUNDER & DIRECTOR OF THE EXPERIENCE FARM

Convinced, through experience, that nature holds the answers, Jeroen, along with his wife Mellany, has built up and transformed their family farm, Klompe Landbouw. Situated just south of Rotterdam in The Hoeksche Waard, it is now a highly successful arable regenerative farm with a combination of sustainable, cutting-edge technology and natural solutions. Jeroen studied farm management at Delft and real estate management in Utrecht. Jeroen is passionate about food quality and taste and is one of the role model regenerative farmers of the Netherlands who strives to “make soil better”.

ANNABELLE WILLIAMS

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Having grown up on a working farm in the UK, Annabelle has never swayed far from her agricultural roots for long. After a decade working for humanitarian organizations in conflict regions, she moved back to the world of agriculture, spending over 10 years working for, and managing a sustainable agriculture think tanks, advocating the transition our of our farming systems to models that are sustainable for the climate, for the environment, and for the farmers. During a deep dive project on soil in her last position, she was particularly struck by the innovative, ground up proof of practice approach taken by the Soil Heroes Foundation, and joined the team in September 2022. Annabelle holds an MBA in Food and Agriculture Businesses.



OUR MISSION

WHY ARE WE STRIVING TO SUPPORT A SHIFT TO A REGENERATIVE AGRICULTURE SYSTEM?

LIFE ON EARTH IS ENTIRELY DEPENDENT ON HEALTHY FUNCTIONING SOILS.

HEALTHY FUNCTIONING SOILS

They are the very foundation of the ecosystems upon which we rely, and we count on their **functioning to produce our food, cycle our nutrients, sequester carbon, manage waterflows,** and be the bedrock of the planet's **biodiversity**. They have a crucial role to play in **climate mitigation** and resilience and determine our **future food security.**

> **"The nation that destroys its soil, destroys itself".**
>
> - Abraham Lincoln, 1837

RISING CONCERN

it is estimated that 60 to 70% of all soils in the EU alone are in an unhealthy state, leading many scientists to equate the **worsening state of soils with the same level of concern as the climate crisis.**

> **60% - 70%**
>
> Estimate of all soils in EU alone are in an unhealthy state.

THE SOLUTION

REGENERATIVE FARMING

CORE PRACTICES

KEEPING SOILS COVERED ALL YEAR ROUND
MINIMISING SOIL DISTURBANCE
INCREASING (BIO) DIVERSITY
MOVING TO NON SYNTHETIC NUTRIENT SOURCES
INCREASING SOIL ORGANIC CARBON
MOVING AWAY FROM PESTICIDES

These practices aid in keeping the soil covered all year long by growing cover crops in-between cash crops, and integrating grazing animals.

These practices, among other benefits, rebuild soil organic matter and restore biodiversity. This in turn results in reduced or a complete reversal of soil erosion, improved aggregate stability, water infiltration, water retention, nutrient cycling, plant health, crop yields, crop resilience, above and below ground biodiversity and crop nutrient quality.

These are all effects that we are seeing on our own test farm as we trial and collect data on these methods.

↑ IMPROVED
SOIL HEALTH

↑ INCREASED YIELD
OF CROPS

BIODIVERSITY
REBUILDS

REGENERATIVE FARMING

Regenerative agriculture goes far beyond the farm gate, sequestering carbon and reducing GHG emissions thereby making an important contribution to our efforts to slow climate heating, providing clean water, and creating resilience in our food system.

↓ REDUCES
GHG EMISSIONS

↑ INCREASES
CARBON SEQUESTRATION

↑ RESILIENCE
IN OUR FOOD SYSTEMS

These are all benefits that are crucial to society and our quality of life on this earth, but also provide a win-win for farmers, providing the opportunity to strengthen their farm's resilience to the growing climate change effects: stabilizing yields, reducing crop losses and reducing input costs for pesticides, fertilizers and irrigation.

MOST OF THE PRACTICES APPLIED IN REGENERATIVE AGRICULTURE ARE NOT NEW, INDEED THEY HAVE BEEN PRACTICED FOR 1000S OF YEARS.

The difference now is that we know why they work and how they work. The greatest challenge for today's farmers is to learn how to integrate the ancient concepts of regenerative agriculture into modern farms whilst building new sustainable regenerative business models.

AT THE SOIL HEROES FOUNDATION, WE ARE WORKING WITH THE KLOMPE FARM TO TRIAL REGENERATIVE AGRICULTURE ON A LARGE-SCALE COMMERCIAL FARM.

We are testing the integration of regenerative farming practices to see what works, and what doesn't work, and to find real time farming solutions to overcome the challenges that the application of new regenerative farming practices might present to a modern commercial farm.

This creates a visual, and data driven evidence of what other farmers can do and shows politicians and food producers the potential for a new horizon for farming.

WHAT IS... REGENERATIVE FARMING?

1

EXPAND THE CROP ROTATION PLAN

moving from simple alternating crops to a structured, multi-year (3–5 years) system, grouping plants by botanical family, nutrient needs, and adding cover crops to boost soil health and disrupt pest cycles.

2

USE YOUR OWN SEEDS

farmers collect, clean, and store seeds from their current harvest to replant in the next season, rather than purchasing new seeds from industrial suppliers every year

3

INCREASE CROP DIVERSITY

This moving away from mono cultures by utilizing techniques like multi-species cover cropping, complex crop rotations, inter cropping, and agroforestry

4

SELECT DEEP ROOTING CROPS

planting species with extensive root systems—often extending over 1 meter—to break up compacted soil, increase water infiltration, sequester carbon deeper in the soil profile, and boost nutrient cycling.

5

INCREASE CROP DIVERSITY

Increasing genetic diversity within crops in regenerative agriculture means utilizing a wide variety of seeds—including landraces, heirloom varieties, and open-pollinated cultivars

6

PLANT WINTER COVERS

Sow specific crops—such as cereal rye, clover, or vetch—after the main harvest to keep the soil covered and alive during the off-season.

7

PLANT PERENNIAL CROPS

Growing plants that live for more than two years and do not require annual replanting or tilling. These crops restore soil health, enhance carbon sequestration, and improve biodiversity by maintaining year-round root systems.

8

GEOGRAPHIC OPTIMIZATION

Use technology, data, and ecological understanding to tailor management to the unique local soil types, topography, and climate, rather than applying a one-size-fits-all approach.

9

USE LIGHTER TOOLS

Employ smaller, lighter, or less-intrusive equipment to minimize disturbance to the soil microbiome and improve water infiltration.

10

INCORPORATE STRAWS & CROP RESIDUES

You can improve the soil by leaving, spreading, and mixing the leftover plant material from a harvest—such as stalks, stems, leaves, and roots—back into or onto the soil rather than removing, burning, or disposing of it.

11

EMPLOY SHALLOW TILLAGE OR NO TILL

minimize soil disturbance, aiming to restore soil health, increase carbon sequestration, and reduce erosion compared to conventional, deep plowing

12

PHASE OUT ARTIFICIAL FERTILIZER (N)

actively reduce and eventually eliminate the use of synthetic nitrogen fertilizers, replacing them with natural, biological systems that nurture soil health.

13

USE COVER CROPS AS GREEN MANURE

growing specific plants during off-seasons to protect the soil from erosion, then incorporating them back into the soil to decompose, rapidly adding nutrients, organic matter, and enhancing soil fertility.

14

INTEGRATE GRAZING ANIMALS

Implement natural fertilizer, hoof action helps break up compacted soil and incorporate organic matter into the top soil. Controlled grazing prunes the grass which stimulates roots to grow deeper and release carbon into the soil.

15

USE BIOFERTILIZERS

applying natural inputs containing living microorganisms—such as bacteria, fungi, or algae—to enhance soil fertility, stimulate plant growth, and restore soil health without relying on synthetic chemicals.

16

USE SOLID MANURE/GREEN COMPOST

using solid manure and green compost means replacing synthetic chemical fertilizers with natural, organic matter. This practice builds soil health, feeds soil microbes, improves water retention, and locks carbon into the earth.

17

MIX CROPS (2 CROPS)

growing two different plant species together in the same field at the same time to maximize natural soil fertility, suppress weeds, and reduce pests.

18

INSTALL CULTIVATION STRIPS & AGROFORESTRY

Installing cultivation strips and agroforestry are regenerative farming practices used to restore ecosystems by mimicking natural forests.

19

IMPLEMENT FIELD MARGINS & BIODIVERSITY LANES

setting aside uncultivated, pesticide-free strips of land along crop edges and through large fields

20

INSTALL RUGGED VEGETATION STEPPINGSTONES

creating dedicated, living pathways between crop beds using sturdy, deep-rooted plants. These "lanes" replace bare dirt with dense greenery, providing solid support for foot or machinery traffic while protecting soil structure and preventing erosion.

HOW WE WORK

HOW WE WORK

HERE'S HOW WE EMPOWER FARMERS TO BUILD THE HEALTH OF THEIR SOILS

1

PROVIDING PROOF OF PRACTICE
FARMERS NEED TO SEE THAT IT WORKS

2

SHARING KNOWLEDGE & PRACTICAL TOOLS
FARMERS NEED TO KNOW WHAT TO DO

3

BUILDING COMMUNITY
FARMERS NEED TO FEEL PART OF A BIGGER WHOLE

OUR PARTNERS

WE COULDN'T ACHIEVE ALL THAT WE DO AT THE FOUNDATION WITHOUT THE EXCEPTIONAL SUPPORT OF OUR PARTNERS WHO SHARE OUR MOTIVATION FOR A REGENERATIVE FUTURE.

THE A TEAM FOUNDATION

The Rockefeller Foundation

1% FOR THE PLANET

Mustardseed Trust

WWF

STICHTING DOEN
VRIENDEN LOTERIJ
NATIONALE POSTCODE LOTERIJ

GIESKES·STRIJBIS FONDS

SPRONCK FOUNDATION

DR. BRONNER'S
FAMILY FOUNDATION

patagonia

TANKA.

Grantham Foundation
for the Protection of the Environment

Sol Fund

AND OUR COLLABORATING KNOWLEDGE PARTNERS

WAGENINGEN
UNIVERSITY & RESEARCH

Louis Bolk Instituut

PROVIDING PROOF OF PRACTICE

OUR EXPERIENCE FARM

KLOMPE LANDBOUW

All our regenerative agriculture trials are currently carried out on Klompe Landbouw. Klompe Landbouw is a third-generation Dutch family farm located on the island of Hoeksche Waard, 20km south of Rotterdam. Of its 300 hectares, 200 ha are now farmed regeneratively.

THE KLOMPE FARM ONE OF THE LARGEST EXPERIMENTS FOR REGENERATIVE FARMING IN EUROPE.

It is also the first farm in the BeneLux region to have achieved BCorp certification. The farm is owned and run by Jeroen and Mellany Klompe and their son Pieter, who have been front-runner regenerative farmers for more than 10 years.

In partnership with the Soil Heroes Foundation, the Klompe Farm trials, and then implements a wide range of experimental regenerative practices, including biofertilisers, compost tea, lane farming, biodiversity margins and strips, no till etc.

Certified B Corporation

THE IDEAL SETUP

WITH PART OF THE FARM STILL BEING RUN CONVENTIONALLY, IT PROVIDES AN IDEAL SET UP FOR US TO TEST AND COMPARE THE EFFECTS OF REGENERATIVE VERSUS CONVENTIONAL FARMING ON BIODIVERSITY, NUTRITION, WATER HOLDING CAPACITY AND SO MUCH MORE.

OUR RESEARCH

We work with universities and research organisations to monitor the trials on the farm and generate data on the effects of the practices. These results are complemented by the farm's own farm logs –recording the adaptation of the farming practices, the yields, the effects of the weather on the different plots, observations on plant health, machinery adaptation etc. as well as testing in the on farm lab.

CURRENTLY THE FARM GROWS A WIDE RANGE OF CROPS

INCLUDING POTATOES, ONIONS, BROWN BEANS, KIDNEY BEANS, SOYBEANS, SEVERAL TYPES OF WHEAT, CARROTS, NAKED OATS AND BUCKWHEAT, AS WELL AS TRIALING NEW REGENERATIVE CROPS, SUCH AS LAND RICE.

Carrying out these trials on a commercial farm enables the Foundation to bridge the divide between academic research and a farmers' daily reality, thus shortening the jump from research to practice. It allows us to combine scientific results with solutions for daily farm management challenges and to understand the economic feasibility of such an approach.

This is crucial for farmers. In order to facilitate the transition to regenerative farming practices, farmers need to see regenerative agriculture in practice – the machinery used, the man hours, the soil data, the resulting yields, and the market pathways for the products.

Thus this approach creates a more relatable and thereby influential demonstration model for other farmers, for buyers, for food processors, and for policy makers.

NUTRIENT DENSITY IN FOOD

The Soil Heroes Foundation has embarked on a study into the impact that regenerative farming practices can have on soil health, and thus, the nutritional density (variety and quantity) of the food crops produced on those soils. Over five years, the Foundation is running 33 trial plots on the Klompe farm, comparing conventional plots with those which have a variety of regenerative practices applied to them. The soils, sap and final crop will be tested and compared each year.

Since the 1940s groups of scientists, consumers, and farmers have questioned whether the nutritional density of the food we eat has been declining over time. Studies have been carried out sporadically during this time frame, but the different variables and testing methods in the studies has made it hard to determine causal relationships between soil health and crop nutrient values.

However, these studies **have indicated that there are potentially differences in the nutritional profile of the same crop produced on regenerative versus conventional fields.** If it can be proven that there is a causal relationship between soil health and nutrient density, this is an important dimension to the health benefits of regenerative agriculture.

Differences in **nutritional density has the potential to add an additional positive reason for buying regenerative food** (and thus create market pull for regenerative products). In 2023 we ran our first practice trial year on wheat. Using a single example of 11 different practices (11 plots), we compared the soil, sap and nutritional value of winter wheat. Whilst this was not a scientific trial, is showed encouraging results in soil biology, as well as amino acids, some vitamins and minerals in the final harvested wheat.

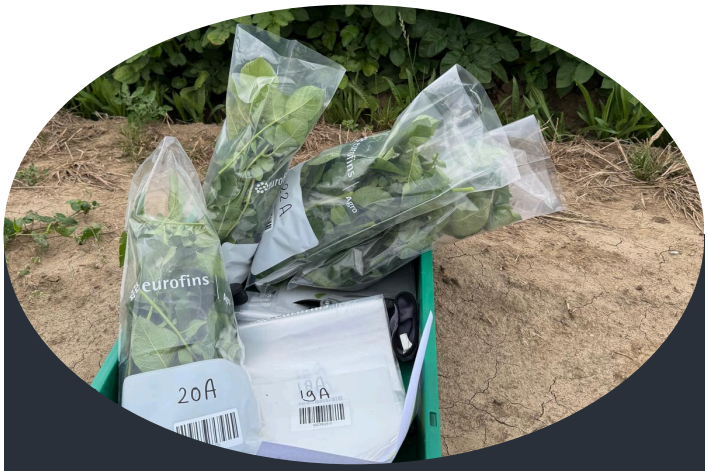
AS NUTRIENT QUALITY IMPROVES THROUGH REGENERATIVE FARMING PRACTICES, THE PROMISE OF NUTRIENT-DENSE FOOD WILL HELP CREATE A STRONGER MARKET DEMAND FOR REGENERATIVE PRODUCTS.

Using the learning from this practice year we then designed the full scientific experiment – using 3 replicates of each practice (33 plots) and adding in multiple testing streams to get the maximum amount of information out of this truly ground breaking experiment. **Over 4 years, from 2024-2027, we will test the soil, sap, and food quality parameters of root crops, cereal crops and protein crops.**

TO DATE, THE HEALTH BENEFITS OF REGENERATIVE AGRICULTURE HAVE BEEN FOCUSED ON THE REDUCTION OF EXPOSURE TO CROP PROTECTION PRODUCTS AND EMISSIONS FOR THE POPULATION LIVING NEAR THE FARM, AS WELL AS REDUCED PESTICIDE RESIDUES IN THE FOOD ITSELF.

2025

2025 was the second year of this experiment and the crop in focus was the potato.
This is an important crop in the rotation for farmers as it represents one of the high value crops in the region. It is also a crop that needs to be as uniform in size as possible due to the strict size regulations of the retailers, and grown with unblemished skin and bruising. It is also very nitrogen hungry. How the humble spud fairs in terms of yield, uniformity and quality on the conventional or regenerative plots is important for the farmer, but it is also very interesting from a nutritional standpoint. It is estimated that in Europe the potato makes up around 15% of vitamin C, 15% of potassium and 15% of vitamin B6 intake in the average diet. The potatoes were planted in the spring and inputs were added to the different plots (for regenerative this is mulch, compost tea and biofertilizer, a manure, compost and rock dust mix and intercropping).



THE SAP

Leaf samples were then taken in the summer to analyze the SAP. This allows us to understand the level of nutrients taken up by the plant from the soil before being passed onto the food crop.

THE HARVEST

In September the potatoes were ready to harvest and teams from the Soil Heroes Foundation, Wageningen Research and the Louis Bolk Institute convened on the fields to follow a strict protocol in potato collection.

NUTRITIONAL ANALYSIS

For the nutritional analysis we collected 5 different samples from each plot. The first was for the main nutritional data – the minerals, vitamins and amino acids. 33 sample bags were sent to a local certificated lab. We backed up these samples with a second set of reference samples which would allow the lab to analyze the nutrient density versus size of the potato.

We need to be able to ensure that sample results are not affected by size or skin to flesh ratio. The WUR Research team took the third set of samples to analyze the second the primary and secondary metabolites. A forth set was sent to a local Wageningen testing station to measure the overall yield, the sellable yield and underwater weight.

DOES SOIL HEALTH AFFECT THE STORAGE QUALITY OF CROPS?

There is a theory that regeneratively grown potatoes may store better over time than conventionally grown potatoes. If true, this would be an important element to take into consideration for both farmers and potato buyers – and thus another potential driver for regenerative agriculture. To investigate further we decided to set aside potatoes from regenerative and conventional plots (the fifth sample), and store them under standard conditions with temperature and moisture gauges. Over the next 6 months we will remove a set of the potatoes and carry out an analysis of their physical quality (bruising, skin, moisture) and a nutritional analysis.

THE WHOLE SOIL PACKAGE

Physical, Chemical and Biological.

In the autumn the LBI team went in to test the physical and chemical properties of the soil. Soil samples were taken to analyse the nutrients (including trace elements), water infiltration tests were done, as were soil profiles, bulk density and penetrometer tests and samples for organic carbon.

The full biological analysis will be done in the spring of 2026.

PREPARING FOR 2026

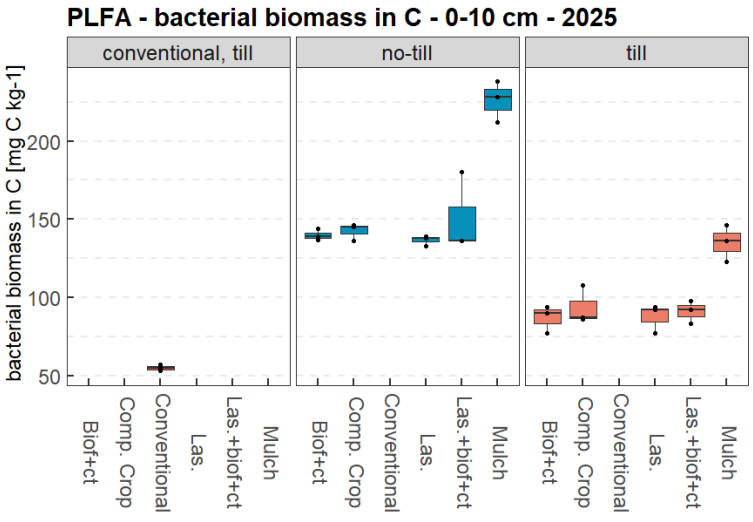
GETTING READY FOR TESTING

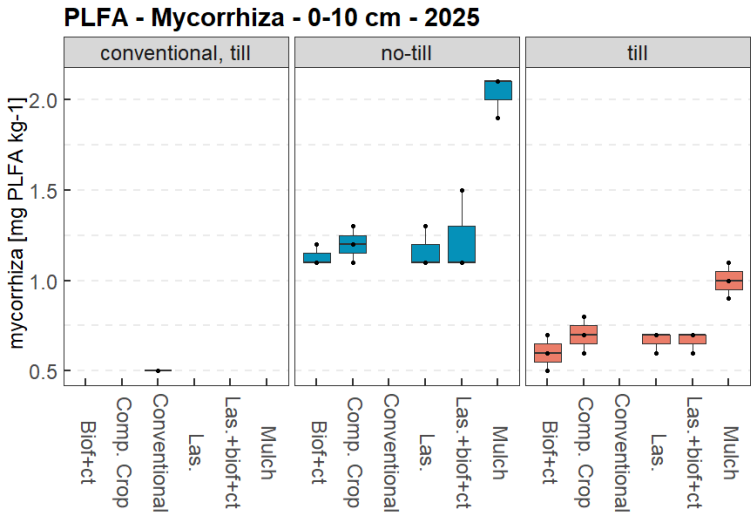
Almost immediately after the harvest, the farm team planted the winter wheat – ready for the 2026 testing, and reapplied the markers for the Louis Bolk Institute team to go in in 2026 and carry out the full earthworm count and soil profiles.

Image left: installing the plots markers according to the GPS.

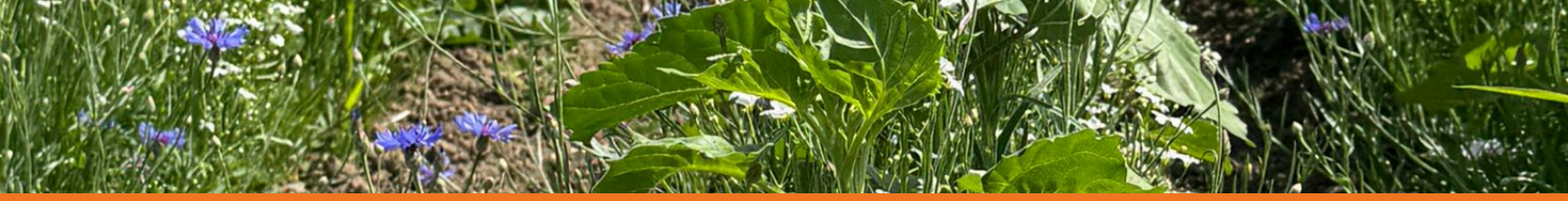
The full data for 2025 will be analysed over the winter months and we'll have a good idea of the early results of the nutritional analysis in the spring of 2026. **But we can already see significant differences in the soil biology** – an important indicator of soil health, and thus plant growth and nutrient density. As seen in the graphs below – the no till regenerative plot shows **consistently higher values in all soil biology markers!** This is an important validation of regenerative farming practices!!

The data being developed through this project is particularly notable due to its scientific plot design and comparative testing between conventional and long term regenerative soils, and the data is multi layered – enabling us to analysis comparative data on **soil health, yields, plant nutrient take up and final nutritional density.** These are crucial data sets to create true picture of the benefits of farming regeneratively – not only for our health, but also for **farm resilience, ecosystem regenerative and food security.**





The no till regenerative plot shows consistently higher values in all soil biology markers!
This is an important validation of regenerative farming practices!!



A GUIDEBOOK FOR REGENERATIVE FARMERS

In 2020, the Soil Heroes Foundation wrote its first version of the guidebook as a response to the question we were most frequently asked: **“What exactly is regenerative farming?”**.

As interest in the term grew, many struggled, and still do, to understand **what farming with not against nature, or, ‘soil centric farming’, actually meant in practical terms.** And so, bringing together the experience of regenerating the Klompe farm – the 300 ha arable partner farm of the Foundation in the Netherlands, and the knowledge of our partners working on regenerative agriculture, we laid out what regenerative agriculture means to us in a practical sense: through 20 (now 21) regenerative farming practices - which formed our first guidebook.

Six years later, with a host of **proof of practice projects and experiments behind us**, the need for farmers to understand practically – especially at scale -what regenerative farming is, is just as important. And so in 2025 we evolved the guidebook further; adding our own experience. We explain to the reader **how we implement each of the practices on the farm, the challenges we face, and the results of the trials we have run.**

In this way we give farmers a very practical, applicable insight into how a large scale arable farm can be run regeneratively.

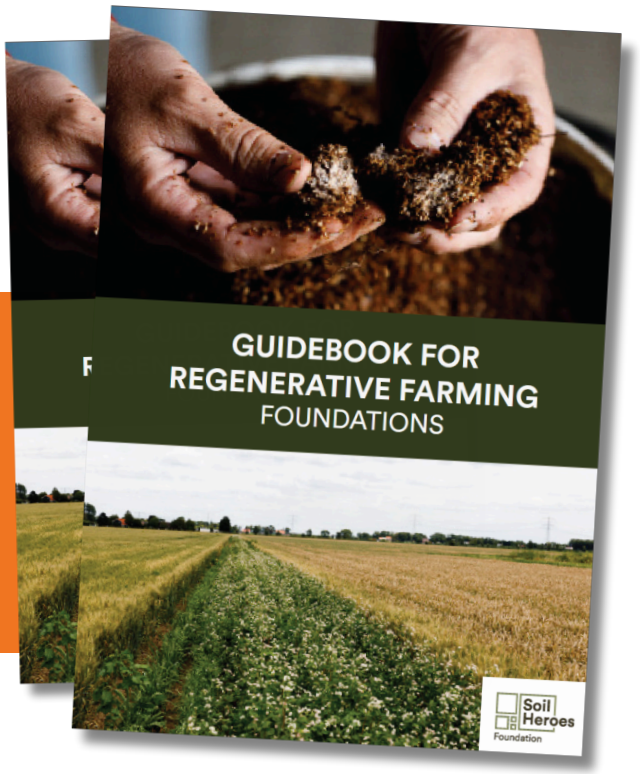
Regenerative agriculture is a constantly evolving journey of trial and error and we are still on that journey, still trying different solutions and rethinking how we approach the challenges we face. But right now the shifting dialogues and co-opting of the term is causing a great deal of confusion for farmers at a time, more than ever, **they need to understand the benefits this approach can bring them, if a systemic approach is adopted.** And thus we hope with this guidebook that we can help farmers understand better what farming regeneratively could look like on their own farms, to visualise the seasonal operations, to understand the investments of material and time, and fully comprehend the benefits.

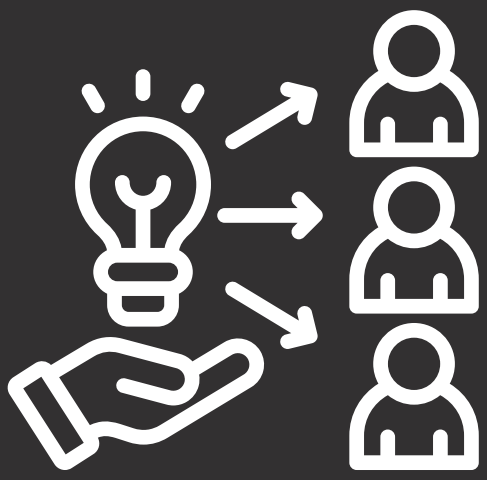
In 2025 we brought all this learning together, and worked with a film crew to film the farm practices to link into the guidebook. **At the end of 2025 it was in the editing phase and we are very excited to be able to publish it in full in 2026, when it will be free to download.**

DOWNLOAD VERSION I TODAY

SCAN THE QRCODE OR CLICK HERE

STAY TUNED FOR VERSION II COMING JUNE 2026





SHARING KNOWLEDGE

SHARING KNOWLEDGE IS FUNDAMENTAL TO THE WORK WE DO.

LEARNING, TESTING, AND SHARING FOR A REGENERATIVE FUTURE

THE GOAL OF OUR FARM TRIALS IS TO GENERATE PRACTICAL KNOWLEDGE THAT OTHERS CAN APPLY — WHETHER TO DEMONSTRATE THE VALUE OF REGENERATIVE AGRICULTURE OR TO SUPPORT THEM ON THEIR OWN REGENERATIVE JOURNEY.

FARM TOURS

POLICY WORK

The farmers cannot do this alone, and need to be supported by an enabling policy framework. Using what we learn through our trials on Klompe Farm, we inform policy makers of the barriers that regenerative farmers face in our current policy climate.

The Soil Heroes Foundation team is regularly called upon to give interviews with those creating policy briefs, show policy makers around the farm, speak at policy events, and is a member of the Think Tank for the Soils for Europe project, SOLO (2023-2027).

LEARNING ABOUT THE FARM

Farm tours are central to our knowledge sharing work and give a wide range of stakeholders the opportunity to see regenerative farming in action.

The tours allow farmers to walk around and ask the practical questions on the spot, either as regenerative farmers already on the journey for transition, or as a conventional farmer looking to change. They are able to see the plot trials, see the lane farming, feel the soil, observe the differences in the crops and watch the biofertilizer fermenting.

But it is equally important to show sceptical politicians and food companies that regenerative farming is possible at scale, and should be supported.

IN 2025, WE SHOWED

429 VISITORS AROUND THE FARM.

THIS INCLUDED FARMERS, AGRICULTURAL STUDENTS AND AGRONOMISTS AS WELL AS REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE FOOD RETAIL AND SUPPLY CHAIN SECTORS, INVESTORS AND SCIENTISTS.

NETWORKING

SPEAKING AT THE FILM PREMIER OF ISLANDS IN A COMMON SEA

MAKING CONNECTIONS

Social media, podcasts, and webinars play an important role in expanding awareness and education around regenerative farming practices. By sharing real experiences, research, and success stories online, farmers and organizations can connect with wider audiences and inspire others to explore more sustainable approaches to agriculture. These digital platforms also create valuable opportunities for collaboration, allowing producers, educators, and communities to exchange knowledge, build supportive networks, and accelerate the adoption of regenerative practices across the industry.

WEBINARS, PODCAST AND SPEAKING EVENTS

As each year, we spoke with numerous stakeholders working to change our system and were honored as key speakers at the Film premier of 'Islands in a common sea' showcasing our work on the farm, as well as the Crop Mix winter school.

NEWSLETTERS AND SOCIAL MEDIA

Every month we send out updates on the work of the Foundation, and trials on the farm through our newsletter, and through our social media which now has a combined following of over 20,000.

BUILDING COMMUNITY

SHARING KNOWLEDGE, IDEAS, AND EXPERIENCES BRINGS CONNECTION.

SHARING, LEARNING & CONNECTING

We were again, very active in being involved in discussions, networks, and making contact with wide range of people – both active in the regenerative agriculture 'community' and outside it.

We showed farmers around the farm, joined meetings on European policy, briefed investors, shared data on the benefits of the regenerative agriculture with companies in the food sector, visited other farms, exchanged ideas and shared what we have learnt through videos, articles and social media.

HERE ARE SOME OF OUR BEST MOMENTS OF CONNECTION...

THE STONE BARNS TEAM
NEW YORK

Here we explored the connection between taste, nutritional density, and regenerative agriculture — and how thoughtful farming practices can create healthier food, healthier soil, and a healthier future.

RODALE INSTITUTE
PENNSYLVANIA

At Rodale Institute in Pennsylvania, Soil Heroes joined a powerful gathering of regenerative agriculture leaders and medical professionals to explore the growing connection between soil health, nutrition, and human wellbeing.

ANNUAL GROUNDSWELL FESTIVAL
2025

At the annual Groundswell festival, Soil Heroes connected with farmers, researchers, and regenerative businesses from around the world in a shared celebration of innovation, collaboration, and the future of agriculture.

GUT & BÖSEL

ALT MADLITZ, BRANDENBURG, GERMANY

During their visit to Gut & Bösel, the Soil Heroes team came together with industry leaders and innovators to exchange knowledge on biofertilizers, agroforestry, and regenerative farming practices. Through open discussion and collaboration, the visit highlighted the importance of shared learning in building resilient farming systems that support soil health, biodiversity, and long-term agricultural sustainability.

DOMAINE DE GRAUX

BELGIUM

During their visit to Domaine de Graux, Soil Heroes explored the value of integrated mixed farming systems and the important role they play in building resilient, regenerative landscapes. Through in-depth discussions on impact measurement, the visit highlighted the growing need for meaningful ways to track ecological, social, and agricultural outcomes — helping shape a clearer understanding of what true regeneration looks like in practice.

THE JOURNEY AHEAD

IN 2026

In 2026 on the nutrient density project will continue – with winter wheat, and then in 2027, with yellow peas. By the end of the project we will have tested a full rotation –turnips, potatoes, winter wheat, yellow peas, giving us a fascinating reference of root crops, cereals and protein crops. **We will kick 2026 with the soil analysis of 33 test plots – analysing the nutrients, and micronutrients, looking at the soil profiles, the water infiltration, the compaction as well as the microbial biomass, the fungal: bacterial ratios and counting the earthworms!**

FROM SOIL TO SOLUTION

TURNING SIX YEARS OF REGENERATIVE FARMING DATA INTO REAL-WORLD PROOF FOR THE FUTURE OF AGRICULTURE.

We will pick the leaves for the sap analysis, and harvest the cereal – weighing the yields, and testing for amino acids, vitamins, minerals, phytochemicals and more. With so much amazing data coming out of this project we will really focus down in 2026 on the analysis of the data sets and how to represent and learn from this project. **What is the data showing us? How can it be useful in the regenerative agriculture space – for farmers, for investors, for policy makers, and researchers.** And how can leverage this data with the help of the network of regenerative organisations working in this space.

We'll also be looking into more **proof of practice projects** – with a specific focus on biofertilizer production for scale, and companion cropping. Designing new projects based on farmer needs. And we will be working on our most exciting and ambitious project to date! 6 years of trials on the Klompe Farm have been invaluable.

And the rare ability to be able to run comparative studies on similar regenerative and conventional soils using the same crops is immensely impactful. But we are also aware that we need to do more, especially at this crucial juncture in regenerative agriculture.

The few holistic regenerative farmers who, at their own their risk, have searched and innovated for new ways of agriculture are now inundated with calls and requests for farm tours, to host interns, to speak at conferences, and workshops. Whilst so many do what they can, they don't have the time, nor the capacity to meet this need. **What we need is a home for regenerative agriculture that is solely devoted to showing the viability of regenerative agriculture – agronomically, and financially.**

GROWING THE FUTURE FARM

ADVANCING NUTRIENT DENSITY RESEARCH WHILE LAUNCHING A LIVING HUB FOR REGENERATIVE INNOVATION, EDUCATION, AND IMPACT.

That is focused on generating the invaluable data on the **positive impact of this approach**. That creates a space for farmers and advisors to come and learn, for policy makers to see the reality, for food companies to rethink their systems, to **reconnect our society back to its soil.** We need a farm free to imagine the farming of the future.

And so in 2026 we will launch our call for funds for the future farm: to buy a farm, transition that farm, data point the full transition – the soil, biodiversity, water, finances, yields and so on, and create a learning and experience site within a financial viable working regenerative farm.

EXCITING TIMES. WATCH THIS SPACE.

SUPPORT THE MOVEMENT TOWARD HEALTHIER SOIL, HEALTHIER FOOD, AND A HEALTHIER PLANET.

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HAVE ANOTHER WAY TO SUPPORT OUR MISSION?
CONTACT ANNABELLE@SOILHEROESFOUNDATION.COM

ANNUAL REPORT 2025
This report was designed by Kat Baker
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Soil Heroes Foundation

LINKEDIN INSTA WEBSITE

LETS STAY CONNECTED

Thank you for taking the time to read the Soil Heroes annual report and for supporting the movement toward a more regenerative future.

Your interest and engagement help drive meaningful change for our soils, farms, communities, and planet.

Follow Soil Heroes on social media to stay up to date on our latest projects, research, partnerships, and regenerative agriculture initiatives throughout the year.

SEE YOU NEXT YEAR!

-The Soil Heroes Team