

Our regenerative principles

Regenerative agriculture seeks to foster changes in farming practices that restore fertility and biological activity in soils affected by decades of heavy mechanisation and chemical inputs. Sélage's role is to put these principles into practice alongside farm teams and local partners, helping farms produce quality crops under good conditions and achieve sustainable profitability in a changing climate that demands increasing resilience and adaptability.

Five pillars guide our farming approach

Regenerative agriculture promotes less soil disturbance and greater crop diversity, with crops that complement one another across the rotation and help regenerate the soil. It seeks to reduce reliance on chemical inputs as the system develops. These changes aim to strengthen agronomic, ecological and economic resilience.

At Sélage, these objectives translate into five farming practices:

01

A rotation of six crops or more over six to eight years.

02

A cover crop in every interval between successive crops, short or long, with a mix of at least four to five species including legumes.

03

Minimum or no tillage, with crop residues retained on the surface. We aim for direct drilling, adapting its use to the crop and the year.

04

Controlled machinery traffic along the same lanes to confine compaction and preserve the structure of the soil.

05

Organic matter returned to the soil through recycled agricultural and biological by-products.

We design each farm's system around these pillars. Depending on farm conditions and local market outlets, the system can accommodate perennial crops, high-value crops and grazing livestock.

Putting the system into practice

Full implementation takes approximately three years. The system reaches maturity around year five.

This transition requires investment in machinery and skills. Controlled traffic needs compatible working widths and satellite guidance.

Existing teams are onboarded and trained. More technical knowledge and time in the field are needed to observe crops and soil, then make decisions at field level. We do not plan to reduce the workforce.

Diversification creates new labour requirements. Where introduced, perennial crops, high-value crops and grazing livestock create jobs that arable farming alone does not provide.



Assessing progress across the farm

The mature rotation contains a different mix of crops, so performance is assessed at farm level over complete rotation. A broader mix of crops spreads income across different markets and cycles. Lower input requirements reduce exposure to input prices.

By year five, we aim for:

10%

less
fertiliser.

10%

less crop protection
product use.

Up to 50%

less fuel, through
controlled traffic,
fewer field passes and
better soil structure.



Soil organic matter is our central indicator of regeneration as it shows soil life and structure conditions. Across the farms we manage, our ambition is to increase it by one percentage point every ten years.

Alongside the reductions in consumption, the expected improvements of such an increase include:

- Around 20mm more plant-available water.
- Better water infiltration, with less runoff and erosion.
- Deeper, denser rooting.
- More earthworms per hectare and additional carbon stored in the soil.



Habitats and biodiversity

Rotation diversity and a cover crop in every interval feed soil life and support the species that depend on it. Alongside the cropped area, we maintain and extend habitats that are not cropped, including hedges, trees, grass margins and buffer strips along watercourses. We observe and record these habitats and the species present, and what we see guides the planting and management that follow.

Supporting transition beyond the farms we manage

We share our trials and data with neighbouring farmers to help them adapt their own practices. Our capacity to invest allows us to test changes and share practical experience with farmers whose investment resources may be more limited.

We welcome young people in training and work with local farming communities over the long term.