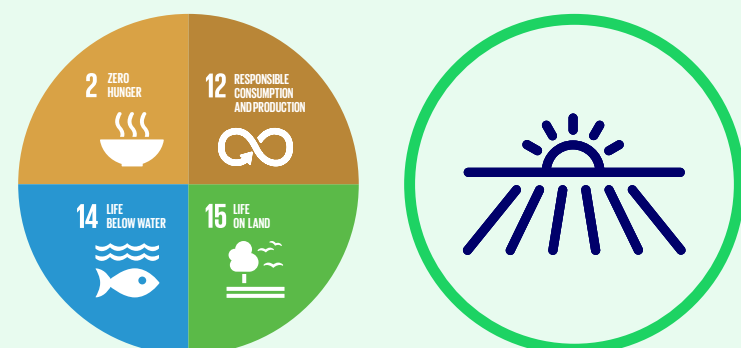


Sustainable food and agriculture

Sustainable food and agriculture refers to an agricultural system that can meet societies food and other agricultural product needs in the present without comprising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. As with conventional farming soil management, crop management, water management, disease/pest management and waste management are the key components. However, the methods used are radically different; they must be ecologically and socially sustainable.

How to feed the world sustainably?

- > Use farming methods that promote soil health, minimize water use and lower pollution levels
- > Consume values-based agricultural products
- > Reduce agricultural waste



The Triodos perspective

We believe that the current amounts of agricultural land and production are sufficient to feed the world. The challenge is to produce, distribute and consume food in a more sustainable way. In a sustainable agricultural system food, fiber and animal products are produced using farming techniques that protect animal welfare, the environment and human communities, and waste is minimised. Everyone in the value chain, from producers and processors to distributors and retailers can contribute to such a system.

Farmers should, for example, use farming methods that promote soil health, minimise water use and lower pollution levels. To minimise the use of synthetic pesticides, synthetic fertilisers and livestock antibiotics, for example, we encourage farmers to use plant and animal species adapted to local conditions. We do not believe that genetic modification of plants and seeds is necessary, nor do we think it is harmless.

Consumers and retailers can steer for change through their purchases. By buying agricultural or agriculturally-based products

that are grown using environmentally and socially friendly techniques, people and businesses can contribute to a sustainable agricultural system. Examples of such products are natural and organic foods or paper-based products. Consumers and businesses can also alter their food consumption patterns or offerings, away from animal proteins to vegetarian and vegan food products.

Investing in sustainable food and agriculture

SUSTAINABLE FOOD PRODUCTION AND FOOD CONSUMPTION

Our SRI funds invest in companies that lead the transition towards a sustainable agricultural system. For example, by reducing their greenhouse gas emissions, restoring land, making efforts to improve soil health, preventing deforestation, and fostering biodiversity. When selecting companies, we also look at social issues, such as land grabbing and violation of workers' rights.

SUSTAINABLE TECHNOLOGY

Companies that make efforts to improve agricultural efficiency sustainably through technologies, ranging from smart water irrigation to smart transportation and technologies that reduce food waste, qualify for investment.

FOOD WASTE REDUCTION

We also invest in sustainable solutions to the reduction of food waste and in companies that are aiming to significantly reduce food waste.

Dilemma: Genetically modified chocolate

Scientific research warns us that in a 'business as usual' scenario predicting an unabated global temperature rise of 2.1°C by 2050, two of the world's leading cocoa producers – the Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana region in Africa, and Indonesia – will lose significant amounts of suitable cultivation area.

Over 89% of the current cultivation areas will no longer be suitable for growing cocoa beans due to decreasing humidity around the equator. Cocoa plants can only grow within approximately 20 degrees north and south of the equator – and

they thrive under specific conditions such as high humidity and abundant rain. A global manufacturer of chocolate has teamed up with researchers to modify the cocoa plant's DNA, to develop a tougher species that does not wilt or rot in warmer temperatures.

Despite the risk of a severe decrease in cocoa production in the future, should we fail to keep global warming limited to below 2°C, we would not invest in this chocolate producer as GMOs may have negative effects on human health and on the environment.