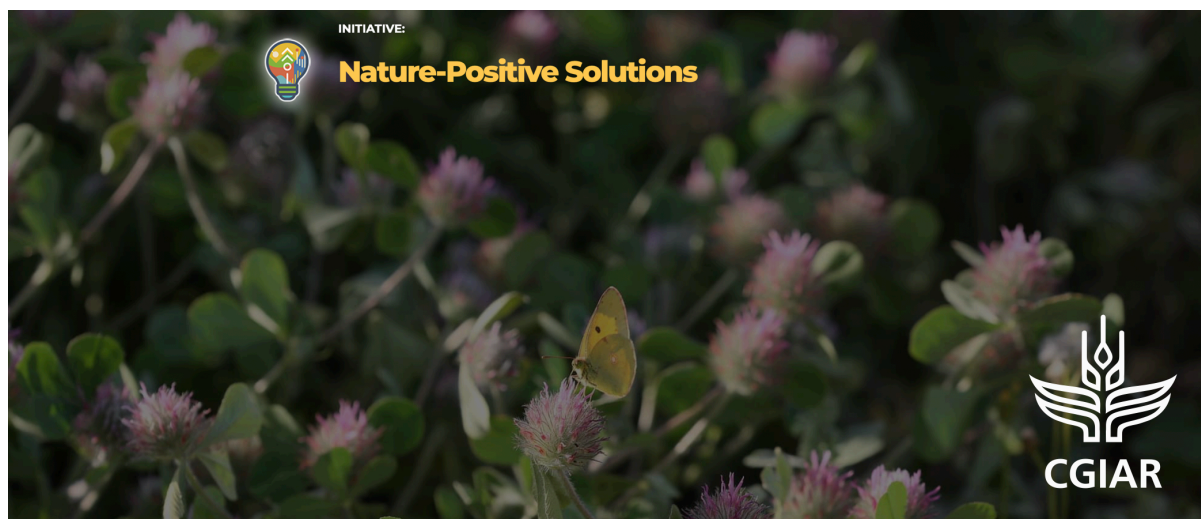


# CGIAR Initiative on Nature-Positive Solutions – Inception Brief – September 2022



## PRIMARY IMPACT AREA



ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH & BIODIVERSITY

## OTHER RELATED IMPACT AREAS



## ACTION AREAS

- ✓ Genetic Innovation
- ✓ Resilient Agrifood Systems
- ✓ Systems Transformation

[Learn more about Action Areas](#)

## REGIONS



East and Southern Africa (ESA), Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC), South Asia (SA), Southeast Asia and the Pacific (SEA), West and Central Africa (WCA)

## SDGS



[Learn more about SDGs](#)

## Challenge

Industrial agriculture has taken a toll on both the environment and humans. It drives 80% of deforestation, threatens 86% of species currently at risk of extinction, is responsible for significant loss of crop and genetic diversity and up to 37% of global greenhouse gas emissions, accelerates land degradation and land-use change, and uses 70% of global water resources withdrawn. The homogenization of our food sources and diets has had a negative impact on nutrition outcomes for families, farming incomes and crop resistance to pests and diseases, collectively diminishing the resilience of smallholder farming systems. The circularity of these problems is exacerbated by misaligned public policies and economic incentives.

But a change of thinking is under way. The 2021 UN Food Systems Summit formally recognized nature-positive production as one of five critical pathways to sustainable food systems. While much of the business case for nature-positive solutions is in place, the actionable science required to support planning by the agricultural research for development community lags behind.

## Objectives

This Initiative aims to re-imagine, co-create, and implement nature-positive solutions-based agrifood systems that equitably support local food and livelihoods, while simultaneously ensuring that agriculture is a net positive contributor to nature.

## Activities

This objective will be achieved through:

1. **Developing nature-positive solutions for conservation of interlinked agrobiodiversity, water and soils systems**, focusing on the nexus of agrobiodiversity conservation and the water and soil resource management critical to reversing biodiversity loss.
2. **Managing biodiversity and other natural resources in a sustainable, nature-positive way**, working with smallholder communities to improve production systems, introducing solutions and innovations around biodiversity, water and soil management.
3. **Promoting nature-positive solutions as cost-efficiency models for community land restoration** by providing the evidence base and capacity to monitor and quantify ecosystem service delivery and maximize efficiency to help local restoration stakeholders establish innovative solutions that attract investment and break the degradation cycle.
4. **Educating a wide range of stakeholders on nature-positive solutions for a circular economy approach to rural waste management**, ensuring that recycling is used effectively by SMEs to generate increased resources that benefit poor farming households in rural areas and help reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
5. **Engaging key actors in creating an enabling environment for nature-positive solutions** by a) researching the cost of food, including the hidden costs of women's labor and b) valuing and shaping different incentives, and c) building mainstreaming implementation and scaling capacity.

## Engagement

This Initiative will work in Burkina Faso, Colombia, India, Kenya and Vietnam, and will extract lessons with global application.

## Outcomes

Proposed three-year outcomes include:

1. Women and men smallholder farmers, local communities and national agricultural research systems (NARS) use nature-positive solutions, stress-tested and validated by the Initiative to improve landscape-scale management of biodiversity for food and agriculture via the farm-scale entry points of water, soil, waste and land restoration.
2. Women and men (including smallholder farmers) use Initiative innovations and pathways to engage more directly in, and benefit more equitably from, value chains based on the outputs of biodiversity conservation, innovative rural waste management technologies and circular economy principles.
3. NARS and other development actors systematically adopt nature-positive participatory, multidisciplinary approaches that make research more impactful, relevant to local agrifood system contexts and smallholder needs, and sustainable through local actor take-up.
4. National and subnational policymakers acknowledge that true-cost accounting should and will be applied to agrifood system-related policy formation.
5. Public and private investment actors use Initiative evidence, tools and methodologies to gain a better understanding of the business case for nature-positive solutions.

## Impact

Projected impacts and benefits<sup>1</sup> include:

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<sup>1</sup> Projected Benefits are a way to illustrate reasonable orders of magnitude for impacts which could arise as a result of the impact pathways set out in the Initiative's Theories of Change. In line with the 2030 Research and Innovation Strategy, Initiatives contribute to these impact pathways, along with other partners and

	<b>ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH &amp; BIODIVERSITY</b> The Initiative aims to achieve a <b>30% increase</b> in food, land, and water productivity, a reversal of soil degradation, and a <b>50% increase</b> in systems biodiversity. It will see more than <b>916,000 hectares of forest</b> protected from deforestation and restored, and more than <b>1.8 million hectares of land</b> under improved management.
	<b>NUTRITION, HEALTH &amp; FOOD SECURITY</b> Through the Initiative, more than <b>69 million people</b> , including farmers and consumers, will have access to a broader food basket, as more crops, particularly nuts and fruits, will be produced and consumed. Women and children will particularly benefit from nutrient-dense crops and varieties.
	<b>POVERTY REDUCTION, LIVELIHOODS &amp; JOBS</b> The Initiative aims to achieve at least <b>20% increased income</b> from nature-positive solutions-focused value chains, benefiting more than <b>69 million people</b> . It will create jobs and enhance income opportunities, particularly for women and youth, through a number of value chains related to seeds, crops, fruit trees, waste, in addition to payment for ecosystem services schemes and public procurement.
	<b>GENDER EQUALITY, YOUTH &amp; SOCIAL INCLUSION</b> The Initiative will incorporate and reflect the needs of women and indigenous people. In addition, value chain development, training, and value chain access/participation will target women and youth in particular. Third, women will be actively involved in the community steering committees to oversee implementation. Women and youth will also be targeted to manage farmer-led seed systems, benefiting more than <b>33.3 million women</b> and <b>11.5 million youth</b> .
	<b>CLIMATE ADAPTATION &amp; MITIGATION</b> Communities will improve their adaptation through the characterization of diversity for climate-related traits and adoption of nature-positive practices by farmers, reducing their vulnerability to climate shocks. Improvements to restoration and soil management, as well as improved recycling and value chains, will create carbon sinks and reduce greenhouse gas emissions, averting more than <b>83 million tonnes of CO2 equivalent emissions</b> . Finally, payment for ecosystem services and other schemes will provide correctly aligned incentives to maintain forests and trees, contributing both to adaptation and mitigation.

## Partners

This Initiative has a wide array of demand, innovation and scaling partners, including: in Kenya, Vihiga County Government, World Wildlife Foundation, the Inter-sectoral Forum on Agro-biodiversity and Agroecology; in India, Bharatiya Agro Industries Foundation Development Research Foundation; in Vietnam, Vietnam Academy of Agricultural Sciences, Institute of Policy and Strategy for Agriculture and Rural Development; in Colombia, Cooperacion Colombiana de Investigacion Agropecuario and Young Professionals for Agricultural Development.

For more details on this Initiative, visit the [Initiative website](#).

Header photo: *Photo by R. Ziade/ICARDA.*

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stakeholders. CGIAR does not deliver impact alone. These projections therefore estimate plausible levels of impact to which CGIAR, with partners, contribute. They do not estimate CGIAR's attributable share of the different impact pathways.