Case study ofi

Regenerative Agriculture in onion and garlic





Case study objectives and approach

Key objectives

Achieve net zero by 2050 Support bringing 2 Mn ha under regenerative agricultural practices Engage in 20 Living Landscapes \bigcirc

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Case study interventions

Support implementation of regenerative onion and garlic practices

- Improving soil health; reducing synthetic fertilizer
- Improving on-farm water use efficiency
- Enhancing on-farm biodiversity
- Increasing on-farm energy efficiency

Landscape scale meadow and forest ecosystem restoration in upper watershed

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- Multi stakeholder programs to manage agriculture and other activities in a sourcing area
- To enhance nature while supporting community development and livelihoods

Regenerative agriculture and restoration program

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Environmental footprint reduction from regenerative agriculture

Sub-activity

Animal-based compost fertilizer

Drip irrigation

CO2

GHG reductions*

15-20% reduction of onion and garlic emissions during production stage



Energy reductions*



Water reductions*

70% diesel reduction (compared to baseline) 42% potential reduction in water use

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Environmental footprint reduction from meadow and forest restoration



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Reflections on implementing this intervention



Company internal process

- Initial motivation: Ofi learned about the connection between the health of the upper watershed and downstream agriculture during a meeting with California Water Action Collaborative
- Creating the internal buy-in and budgets: Ofi had an internal goal around developing landscape partnerships. Internal buy-in came when ofi partnered with customers to share costs
- Actions/ internal changes needed: Ofi works closely with the agricultural production teams and has hired an agronomist



Challenges along the way

• Field-level implementation had to wait for the right climatic conditions; there were some delays due to fires and snow.

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 Because the project is occurring on public lands, carbon benefits are measured and received from the project but they are not verified

Learnings & recommendations



- Working with customers and expert partners is incredibly valuable and a powerful way to make a real impact
- Of i works with **long-standing grower relationships** (currently on 1-year contract annual contract), where of plays an important role in crop rotations (onion & garlic fit well every 4-5 years in off-seasons)
- Instead of a price premium on products, of incentivizes working on the Regen Ag program via **cost-sharing for project implementation** between of, customers, and sometimes growers. Some grower contribution is in-kind.
- Ofi rewards processor/ growers' sustainable behaviour by demonstrating the long-term relationship and field-level benefits
- Ofi and farmers are gaining trust and support from large customers
 - In the past, customers wanted specific outcomes and indicators to report on
 - Now, they are more open to understand transformative changes from ofi, brainstorm together, and willing to co-invest in implementation
 - Only there is no willingness yet to pay price premiums