



The Good Growth Plan Progress Data - Biodiversity 2015



Help biodiversity
flourish

1. Summary

Syngenta has made a public commitment, The Good Growth Plan, to address the huge challenges of feeding a growing world population sustainably. One of the key pillars of this commitment is to help biodiversity flourish. This is both for the sake of biodiversity itself as well as sustainable intensive agriculture, since the latter depends on intensifying the contribution of ecosystems services from biodiversity. Biodiversity helps build the resilience needed to make agriculture sustainable in many ways. It helps to regulate nutrient-cycling and control pests, and provides pollination services, diverse crops and genetic stocks for plant breeding.

We are helping growers to create rich habitats in field margins and riparian zones alongside rivers. We're promoting managed forests and agro-forestry, which also help protect water bodies. And to preserve crop diversity, we're working with groups that conserve wild crop relatives to integrate them into farming practice.

The Biodiversity dataset shows aggregated hectares of farmland reported in 2014-2015 that are impacted by biodiversity conservation practices which were established or managed in collaboration with Syngenta. The dataset also includes a description of the project's geography, scope, and objectives. The number of hectares of impacted farmland is locally tracked through in-field assessments, and is documented and reported by project managers.

2. Metadata

Description of the dataset	The dataset includes 2014 and 2015 figures of farmland hectares impacted through biodiversity enhancement practices established or managed in collaboration with Syngenta.
Date of first publication	April 23, 2016
Date of last update	March 16, 2016
Date of next update	Spring 2017
Frequency of updates	Annually
Reporting period	October 1, 2013 – September 30, 2015
License for re-using the data	The contents of this dataset and all supporting documentation are licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike 4.0 International License.
Text to use when	The Good Growth Plan Progress Data - Biodiversity 2015

citing the data	
URL to use when citing the data	www.goodgrowthplan.com
Geographic coverage	Argentina; Austria; Belgium; Brazil; Bulgaria; Canada; China; Colombia; Croatia ; Czech Republic; Denmark; Finland; France; Germany; Greece; Hungary; Italy; Japan; Lithuania; Netherlands; Paraguay; Poland; Portugal; Serbia; Slovakia; Slovenia; South Korea; Spain; Sweden; Switzerland; United Kingdom; USA
Data language	English
Key words	Biodiversity; conservation agriculture; The Good Growth Plan, field margins, ecological corridors, riparian lands, biodiversity enhancement.
Subject	Biodiversity conservation
Copyright year	2016
Copyright holder	Syngenta AG

3. Structure of the data

Presented data are project-level aggregates.

Variable name	Definition	Unit	Type of data
Region	Syngenta definition of organization by geography		String
Territory	Syngenta definition of organization by geography		String
Country	Country		String
Project Category	Project focus in terms of sustainable agricultural practice		String
Impacted Hectares	Hectares of farmland that benefit from the positive change brought in by implemented biodiversity conservation practices	Hectares	Numeric
Project Objectives	Description of the project objectives and activities		String
Reporting Year	Syngenta definition of reporting year for non-financial indicators		String

4. Background and methods

4.1. Description of project activities

The aim of our Biodiversity commitment is to promote and implement “healthy, functional, and resilient ecosystems” in a way that is compatible with our commercial operations.

Biodiversity helps build the resilience needed to make agriculture sustainable in many ways. It helps to regulate nutrient-cycling and control pests, and provides pollination services, diverse crops and genetic stocks for plant breeding. So we’re helping growers to create rich habitats in field margins and riparian zones alongside rivers.

Biodiversity enhancement within agriculture landscapes has many different meanings as well as ways of implementation in the different geographical regions. For this reason we came up with project types that could be included within the Biodiversity commitment. The different project types that we have selected are based on the approach of how land is shared and spared within a landscape.

Biodiversity enhancing practices within the scope of our activities include:

- Multi-Functional Field Margins (MFFM) – Farmland used for biodiversity enhancement and habitat restoration is often focused on less productive and marginal areas. This includes land to buffer natural features such as watercourses, forests and hedges as well as other ecological infrastructures on low productive lands that is not suitable for farming. The introduction of field margins in managed marginal land in off crop areas of the field supports the development of multifunctional landscapes that offer multiple ecosystem services (migrating corridors, wind breakers for crops, water regulation).
- Managed forests/riparian lands – Biodiversity enhancement also applies to the restoration and maintenance of managed forests, particularly restoring and/or managing riparian lands or field borders.
- Agro-Forestry – Producing crops and trees on the same area of land supports the conservation of natural resources, ensures a better use of environmental resources and diversifies activities for arable farmers.
- Artificial or managed wetlands – Managing wetlands to protect and restore a habitat to support wildlife and enhance biodiversity.
- Biodiversity-friendly farming – Implementing farming practices that support ecosystem resilience and ecological interactions between farmed and unfarmed areas.
- In-situ genetic diversity conservation – Managing on-site conservation of species and ecosystem diversity, including crop wild relatives and their evolutionary adaptations. Support of crop diversity seed banks.

4.2. Sources of data

In-field assessments of the hectares implemented with and impacted by biodiversity conservation practices are conducted and documented by local project managers and external stakeholders. The respective data is measured once, either at the time of implementation or at the time of Syngenta's involvement to manage already implemented practice.

4.3. Data collection tools and process

The number of hectares of impacted farmland established by each initiative is locally tracked and reported by using project record-keeping systems and quality assurance processes. The data and respective evidence is documented, reported and consolidated at a country, territory, regional, and global level, using data collection templates with in build drop-down menus. A risk assessment has been conducted to identify reporting risks. Identified risks are mitigated by the implementation of internal controls.

After consulting with scientists and conservation experts, we have taken the initial view that implementing biodiversity enhancement practices on 3 percent of an area has a significant impact on its biodiversity. For example, 3 hectares of implemented margins benefit 100 hectares of land. This may vary from location to location, depending on local biodiversity and environmental goals, cropping patterns and climatic conditions. We will continue to consult with experts and other stakeholders in order to refine our practices and reporting approach.

4.4. Progress measurement

To measure progress over time, we will keep track of:

- Implemented hectares - Hectares of farmland where at least one of the aforementioned biodiversity conservation practices are introduced and implemented.
- Impacted hectares - Hectares of farmland that benefit from the positive change brought in by implemented hectares.

The data are reported annually and cumulatively by adding the hectares that have been newly established or managed in the respective reporting year. The target is to reach 5 million hectares of farmland that have been benefited by biodiversity enhancing practices listed above .

4.5. Outlook

The next data collection for the reporting period October 2014 to September 2015 is ongoing. In the near future, we will gradually move towards IT-based record-keeping systems in order to further manage reporting risks.

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In 2014 we worked with partners across the world to identify priorities and targets, and define implementation plans. With projects underway in several countries, we have deepened our understanding of the impact that simple, pragmatic farming practices can have on landscape quality and resilience. The priority now is to increasingly embed what we have learned in some of our commercial offers, such as the tailoring of biodiversity programs to local conditions and the scaling-up of projects to suit larger rural communities.

5. Approval of non-financial performance data

The Good Growth Plan data is published as a global aggregate in the Non-financial performance summary on pages 57 to 62 of the Annual Review 2015. This summary was approved by the Board of Directors on February 2, 2016. Syngenta's Board of Directors and management are responsible for establishing and maintaining adequate internal controls over non-financial reporting. Syngenta's internal controls over non-financial reporting are designed to provide assurance to Syngenta's Board of Directors and management regarding the reliability of non-financial reporting and the preparation and fair presentation of the information published in the Non-financial performance summary. All internal controls, no matter how well designed, have inherent limitations and therefore may not prevent or detect misstatements. In designing internal controls over non-financial reporting, Syngenta used the criteria established in Internal Control – Integrated Framework (2013) issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission (COSO). PricewaterhouseCoopers AG, Switzerland, an independent registered public accounting firm, has issued an opinion on Syngenta's Non-financial performance summary, which is included in the Annual Review 2015 on page 63.

6. Contact information

For questions and inquiries regarding this dataset and documentation, please contact goodgrowthplan.data@syngenta.com.