Plant Protein
Inside our sustainability story
Sustainability efforts for wheat protein

Healthy environment & sustainable sourcing

Health and the environment play a key role for consumers when considering plant-based alternatives. Consumers are attracted to plant-based alternative foods because they perceive them to be healthier and better for the planet, as well as in bringing more variety into their diets.

As a result, European consumers are willing to pay 10% more for plant-based products.1

23% of global consumers took action in the past year by choosing more sustainably grown/produced products.2

Cargill’s wheat protein is part of our European sustainability program that verifies sustainability performance at the farm level through the use of the Farm Sustainability Assessment.* With this verification, farmers commit to improving their farming practices and demonstrate sustainability across their farming activities. The majority of the corn and wheat we source in Europe is benchmarked at “Silver level” according to the Farm Sustainability Assessment. This industry recognized system supports good agricultural practices in key sustainability areas, including: soil quality, biodiversity conservation, water quality, water use, with the goal to create positive impacts on the environment.

To achieve sustainable sourcing Cargill Starches, Sweeteners, Texturizers Europe has set sustainability goals in place. These goals include partnering with farmers to allow us to sustainably source 65% of our raw materials by 2025.**
Consumers believe that food & beverage companies should be doing more to protect the environment.\(^1\)

46% of French consumers (40% of German consumers) agree that “I am moderately engaged and regularly do the little things in life I can do to help the environment.”\(^2\)

In fact, 59% of European consumers believe that it is important that these brands look to offset their carbon footprint.\(^3\)

- At Cargill, we are extending raw material sustainability programs across Europe to promote the transition to regenerative agriculture. As part of a far-reaching long-term regenerative agriculture strategy, we’re actively partnering with European wheat farmers on solutions to reduce carbon and help improve water conservation. Through regenerative agriculture, soil draws more carbon from the atmosphere and allows farmers to reduce chemical inputs and soil tillage, as well as to increase productivity.

- We have launched a 3-year project with one of our partners, Soil Capital. Soil Capital is working with a number of farmers, connected to our supply chains in France and Belgium, focused on increasing regenerative agriculture practices and creating healthy soils that can store more greenhouse gases.

- Cargill is also a member of the Cool Farm Alliance. This program uses the Cool Farm Tool, an industry aligned assessment system to demonstrate carbon dioxide (CO\(_2\)) reductions.

At Cargill, our purpose is to nourish the world in a safe, responsible and sustainable way that requires us to help meet the nutritional needs of a growing population.
Consumers continue to have high demands for companies and brands to be transparent. They want to know about ingredients, production, sourcing, and values.

For our Cargill’s wheat protein, it is well known where the raw materials are sourced through established transparency and traceability systems.

Environmental sustainability and the ethical issues surrounding food waste are at the forefront of food waste concerns. Many consumers are worried about inflation and rising food prices, which make them even more conscious of the food waste issue. Throughout Cargill’s European production plants, we are aiming to minimize waste and ensure that we get the maximum use out of all the materials that we process. “Circularity” is central to our strategy, as we strive to transform 99% of the raw materials that we convert into value added ingredients for food and bioindustrial use. Therefore, there is almost no waste of raw materials associated with the production of Cargill’s wheat protein.

60% of European consumers agree that it is important to avoid food waste.

3 in 5 consumers in Europe say “I research the environmental pledges of brands/manufacturers/retailers.”

52% of European consumers say “I have become more attentive of the country of origin of the food I consume as a result of COVID 19.”

60% of European consumers agree that it is important to avoid food waste.
Sustainability for pea protein

According to studies:

- Pulses, such as peas, present environmental benefits such as nitrogen fixation to the soil, minimal requirement for fertilizers, low carbon and food wastage footprints, water efficiency, and low cost of production.\(^6\)

- Pulses, the dry edible seeds of *Leguminosae* crops (including peas), are an affordable source of carbohydrates, dietary fiber, vitamins, minerals, phytochemicals, and particularly proteins. These nutritious seeds greatly contribute to food security, sustainable agriculture, biodiversity and environmental changes mitigation. Furthermore, pulses are a protein source with a low carbon and water footprint.\(^6\)

- The global contribution of legumes, particularly pulses such as peas, to a balanced and sustainable relationship between humans and the environment is summarized in the below figure.\(^6\)

**POSITIVE IMPACT OF PULSES SUCH AS PEAS ON THE ENVIRONMENT**

**Sustainability**
- Crop rotation
- Enhancement of soil composition

**Biodiversity**
- Enriched agrobiodiversity
- Enhanced soil biodiversity via interaction with soil microbiome

**Mitigation of climate changes**
- Reduction of greenhouse gases
- Low carbon and water footprint

**Agriculture**
- High adaptability to harsh conditions
- Low water needs
- Nitrogen fixation
- Self-fertilizing

**Pea protein matters for Cargill**

- Peas are beneficial to agriculture systems through intercropping and crop rotations with cereals.
- They require less nitrogen fertilizers, therefore cause less GHG emissions, since they create their own fertilizer.
- Pea crops require less water compared to other crops.
Our commitments

Cargill is taking action to reduce emissions across our operations and supply chains

30% Cargill has a commitment to reduce Scope 3 emissions in our supply chain by 30% per ton of product sold by 2030 against a 2017 baseline.

Cargill Starches, Sweeteners & Texturizers is working toward this commitment by supporting regenerative agriculture across the countries where we source corn and wheat. In Europe, 10,000 metric tons of CO2 was reduced associated with wheat through regenerative agriculture in 2022. This is the equivalent to greenhouse gas emissions from 39,947,226,891 km*** driven by an average gasoline-powered passenger vehicle.

10% Cargill has a commitment to reduce Scope 1 & 2 operational emissions by 10% by 2025.

Cargill Starches, Sweeteners & Texturizers reached Cargill’s science-based target of reducing scope 1 and 2 carbon emissions by 10% two years earlier than our 2025 commitment. In Europe, Cargill Starches, Sweeteners & Texturizers continues to set the bar higher and now aims to reduce our business’ scope 1 and 2 emissions by 15% by 2025. This will be achieved through the implementation of initiatives such as ISO 50 001, energy efficiency measures, technical solutions, cogeneration and securing new renewable energy sources such as wind.

100% Cargill Starches, Sweeteners & Texturizers optimizes our inbound and outbound transport by promoting lower emission modes of transport and transforming our customer distribution network.

We as Cargill Starches, Sweeteners & Texturizers have implemented the use of 100% biofuel on some high volume lanes and reached a 90% CO2 emission reduction compared to regular fuel.

Cargill is positioned to lead the future of protein, bringing protein in all forms — animal-based, plant-based, fermentation-derived, cultivated and hybrids — to the world. We’ve also been providing ingredients to the plant-based and alternative protein category for over 20 years.
FSA is a standardized reference developed by SAI Platform, a food industry organization dedicated to advancing sustainable agriculture in the food chain. It's designed to help producers assess their sustainable practices, and support manufacturers in the sourcing of sustainably grown products.

** 65% of corn and wheat sourced in European Union & UK

*** Calculation links:
https://www.epa.gov/energy/greenhouse-gas-equivalencies-calculator#results
https://www.rapidtables.com/convert/length/mile-to-km.html?x=24%2C822%2C056+

1 Health Focus International 2020/22 Innova Consumer Data, 2022
2 Innova Consumer Data, 2022
3 FMCG Gurus, 2022
4 November 2022 Packaged Facts National Online Consumer Survey
5 WHO plant-based diets report 2021
6 Trends in Food Science & Technology Journal 2019

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