



SVZ FARMERS FUND

2024

The SVZ Farmers Fund contributes to sustainability initiatives across our value chain, focusing on improving soil health, water management, and maintaining thriving ecosystems. Our success as a business is directly linked to the communities who produce our raw materials and the land in which they grow.

Our delicious, high-quality and sustainable ingredients are made with responsibly sourced fruit and vegetables grown by close partners and collaborators, not just suppliers. At SVZ, we establish long-term relationships with our farmers, their families, and their communities.

The SVZ Farmers Fund is how we invest in the future of farming. Through it, we support programs that train growers in implementing sustainable farming practices, increasing efficiency while protecting ecosystems, improving quality and yield, and tackling social challenges. Our goal is that every kilo of fruit and vegetable ingredients we sell helps contribute to our Farmers Fund and its vital projects.



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SVZ Farmers Fund: The impact areas

The SVZ Farmers Fund programs address various environmental factors influencing fruit and vegetable yield and quality, such as farmers' income, biodiversity as well as eco-preservation, and climate adaptation. We provide farmers with opportunities and resources for professional development, helping them make a liveable income from their cultivation efforts. To achieve this aim and ensure the results are sustainable, we encourage farmers to embrace innovation and test cutting-edge farming technologies that create the conditions they need to thrive.

The main impact areas covered in our farm-level programs are:

FARMER
PROSPERITY

CARBON
REDUCTION

ECOSYSTEM
PROTECTION

RESPONSIBLE
SOURCING

These impact areas are highly interlinked. In the implementation of the projects made possible by the SVZ Farmers Fund, we take a holistic view, embracing economic, social, and environmental factors. The Fund supports the adoption of regenerative agriculture practices to protect and restore natural resources and biodiversity. To us, healthy soil, trees, and plants ensure healthy crops, high yields, and good quality – now and for the long term. Improved farming conditions and management practices, enhanced training, and farm diversification strategies also help deliver a better income for farmers. Our programs are conducted in close collaboration with partner organisations across our supply chain, including local agronomists, government bodies, civil society organisations, and other subject matter experts. In this way, we can leverage specialist knowledge to maximise our impact.

Our long-term Commitment

The impact of interventions such as water saving technologies, biodegradable mulching, farmer training in regenerative agriculture practices, and carbon reduction programs are all only seen over years of data gathering.

We aim to run our farm-level programs for three years or longer to ensure impact and sustainable benefits for all stakeholders. Close monitoring and continued support are also essential for securing long-term benefits.

By 2030, our ambition is to have supported at least 4,000 farmers directly through the Fund and a further 1,000 farmer families through indirect interventions. We plan to do this through investments in farm-level programs and the building of long-term partnerships across our supply chain. Currently, we have active programs running in Spain and Poland, but we expect to launch more projects in our other SVZ's main countries of origin in 2025-26. By expanding our initiatives, we aim to increase our positive impact and the percentage of our fruit and vegetable ingredients that are completely sustainably sourced.

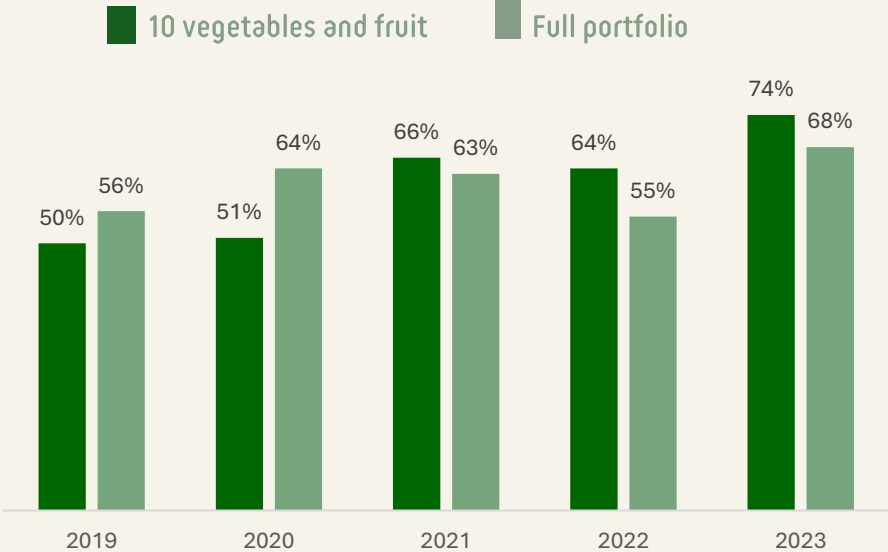


Sourcing Responsibly

SVZ is a member of the Sustainable Juice Covenant, an international initiative which sees the sector’s leading players join forces to improve the sustainability of juice supply chains around the globe. As part of this collective push for action, SVZ has committed to the target of 100% sustainable sourcing by 2030. While we strive to improve our performance in everything we do, our current focus is on 10 specific fruits and vegetables we have selected for optimisation:



Responsible sourcing is a cornerstone of the SVZ Farmers Fund. It allows us to make certification more accessible to farmers, while maintaining the transparency and traceability of our supply chain. We focus on one task at a time, using our certification program to maximise our impact. In 2023, we were able to reach higher volumes of sustainably sourced products than ever before, and we expect to double our efforts in 2025:



Partnerships for growth: Innocent & SVZ

Reducing carbon emissions through the optimisation of water consumption.

We recently partnered with innocent drinks (as a recipient of the company's Farmer Innovation Fund), Optirriego, and Cuna de Platero (a farmers' cooperative in Huelva, Spain) to lead a project aimed at optimising water consumption and reducing carbon emissions in our strawberry supply chain.

The Government of Andalucía constantly monitors levels of surface and groundwater to regulate agricultural irrigation. In previous years, farmers have encountered cuts of up to 75% of the water available for irrigation in the province.

By implementing HIDRIX, an on-demand irrigation technology, we aimed to support farmers in their journey toward carbon neutrality and better water efficiency. The goal of this implementation project is to unlock a 20% reduction in water usage and a 10% saving in fertiliser use across our partner strawberry farms in Huelva, Spain.



Partnerships for growth: Danone, SVZ, and BASF

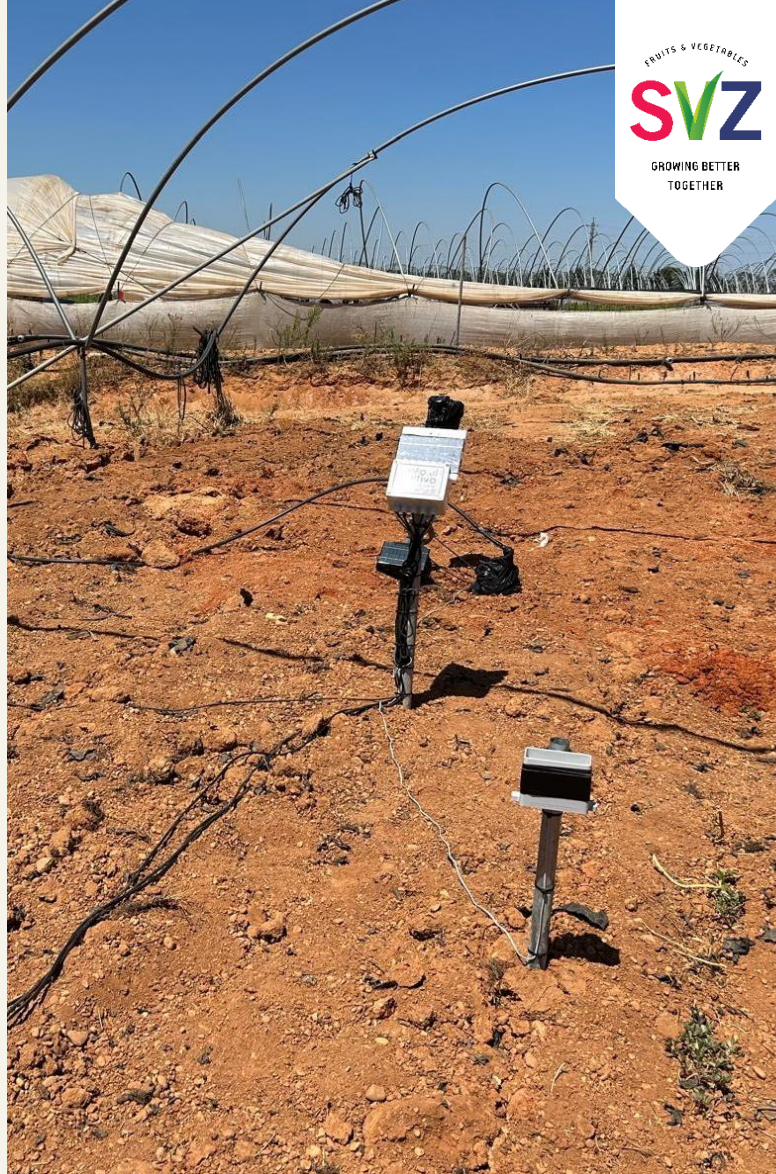
Optimising water use in the soil preparation cycle with fully compostable mulching.

Plastic mulching materials are a commonly used resource in modern agriculture. At SVZ, we recognise the negative effects this plastic mulching can have on the environment and are committed to devising a sustainable solution. As such, we began extensive testing with a paper-based mulching material during the harvest of 2020-21.

Unfortunately, the paper-based mulching was not robust enough to last to the end of the harvest in an optimal condition. We, then, moved on to testing a fully compostable biofilm (Ecovio from BASF), evaluating a broad range of thicknesses in the season of 2022-23. This time, the campaign showed much more success. We continued testing in the strawberry season of 2023-24, discovering that the biofilm lasted the entire season and left us with great learnings.

In the 2024-25 season, we are planning to expand our testing areas and, for the first time, include conventional farming in our partnership scope. Additionally, we are comparing the CO₂ impact of Ecovio versus PE mulching in our Scope 3 assessment.

Also, as part of this partnership, we are launching a water quantity and quality baseline for the soil preparation cycle of our strawberries in Spain. According to our data, 16% of the water consumed on such farms is related to the soil preparation cycle. Therefore, optimising this phase of farming is a key step in our sustainability journey.



Certified success: Our Polish farmers program

The SAI Farm Sustainability Assessment (FSA) program is a globally recognised framework designed to evaluate and improve sustainable farming practices. SVZ ensures we have a team permanently stationed in Poland to support farmers with filling in their self-assessment questionnaires, organising farm audits and managing the financial costs associated with this, sometime challenging to obtain, certification.

At SVZ, we are committed to helping our Polish farmers achieve Silver SAI FSA Certification. In 2023 alone, we assisted in certifying 1,521 farmers, and in 2024 we have so far supported an additional 301 farmers. This includes a variety of fruit and vegetable farmers, such as those growing strawberries, cherries, carrots, and spinach. As an example, over 80% of our Polish carrots and nearly 70% of our red currants are now sustainably sourced.

At SVZ, we have been working closely with our farmers in collecting historic data to optimise agricultural practices, maintain and in some cases improve soil quality. Root vegetables, like carrots are nutrient-intensive and can quickly deplete soil quality. We recognise that improving levels of organic matter in the soil is a project with a long-time scale, and that results may only begin to show after many years of consistent effort.



To address this challenge, we support farmers in analysing their soil quality, using this data in collaboration with our farmers and agronomy team to create a multi-year farming practice plan. We employ cover cropping practices to protect the soil from harsh winter conditions and retain soil moisture. These initiatives mean that the organic content of our farmers' soil is maintained at optimal levels, season after season.

Keeping our farmer's soil healthy and high performing is key for ensuring our fruits and vegetables always meet the highest standards of taste and quality. This is a continuous effort, so we provide year-round agronomy support to our partner farmers. In Poland, we go beyond the standard farming requirements, offering specific advice and monitoring.

In addition, we organise workshops and annual events to share best practices, not only with our partner farmers but with the entire farming community. We believe in the value of knowledge sharing for the greater good, fostering an environment of continuous improvement and sustainable agriculture – for now, and forever.



SVZ International Farmer Fund

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SVZ International
Headquarters
Stadionstraat 40, 4815 NG
Breda, North Brabant
The Netherlands

<https://www.svz.com/sustainability>

