

A woman wearing a pink hat and an orange cardigan stands in a field of colorful quinoa plants. In the background, there are mountains, some with snow, under a cloudy sky.

# Global Sustainability Framework



## **What does sustainability mean to us?**

Sustainability is an increasingly common word in our industry, with many uses and interpretations. At Red River Foods, we look at sustainability simply. For something to be sustainable, it must be resilient and endure against external and internal forces. It is with this interpretation that we approach sustainability, from farm-level to delivery of the final product.

## **What is our sustainability framework?**

This framework is a structure under which we align all sustainability activities in the company. We have developed this framework to plan, select, organize, implement, and communicate all our sustainability-related actions across our global network of supply chains.

**Ethical Sourcing.  
Exceptional Products.**







# Pillars of Sustainability

These are the three key pillars that form the core of our framework, which is based upon our company mission, vision, and values. It is with these three pillars that we align all our sustainability work company wide.



## People

At the core of any business lies the people that make it happen and ensure it thrives. With our global reach, we have the opportunity to engage with a significant number of various stakeholders, from farmers, processors, and small-scale aggregators to multi-national trading companies. It is through thoughtful engagement and collaboration that we can work together to improve livelihoods, working conditions, and well-being in our supply chains.



## Products

At Red River Foods, sourcing and providing high-quality products are paramount, as defined in our company mission. We see product sustainability as an extension of industry responsibilities. Whether this is the development of increased traceability systems or ensuring responsible sourcing through due diligence with suppliers, we strive for constant improvement and uncompromising commitment to this objective.



## Planet

The impact of global agriculture on the environment is considerable, and becoming more apparent as more attention is focused on it. As part of the food industry, we recognize our place and our responsibility in protecting, conserving, and even regenerating the planet and its resources. Therefore, we aim to minimize our negative impacts while maximizing our efforts to innovate and regenerate across all our supply chains.











# Themes

In order to further define how we work within these pillars we have established the following themes:

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PEOPLE

## Farmer Livelihoods

For farmers in our supply chains to prosper, we aim to support them through trainings, farm services, and additional revenue-generating projects. We focus on optimizing on-farm production to maximize yields and creating alternative forms of income, both on- and off-farm. The main activities within this theme are farmer training, beekeeping, pruning & thinning, and cooperative development.

## Community Development

Going beyond the optimization of primary crop production, we also aim to support farmers and their communities to improve their well-being through other programs like VSLAs (Village Savings and Loan Associations), reforestation projects, and scholarships.

## Safe & Decent Labor

Ensuring safe and decent labor conditions for all stakeholders in our supply chains is paramount. Starting at the farm all the way through to the delivery of products to our customers, we guarantee that we do everything we can to uphold international and industry standards by requiring adherence to our Red River Foods Code of Conduct and verification by first- and third-party social compliance audits.

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PRODUCTS

## Traceability

Improving our levels of traceability is more and more demanded by consumers and our customers. Therefore, we must advance our capacity and understanding of traceability across our supply chains. We view traceability as a foundational component to several of our other themes, and a means to connect our extensive work on the ground with producers to the end product.

## Regeneration

To have a positive impact on the earth and the ecosystems from where we source our products, we must take action to implement practices that have regenerative effects, specifically focusing on soil health and biodiversity.

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PLANET

## Responsible Sourcing

Ensuring that our sourcing is ethical and responsible is becoming an increasing requirement from governments, lenders, customers, and consumers. For us, ethical sourcing means working to implement fair wages and prices; a vital aspect of this is educating our customers on the realities faced by the farmers, harvesters, and producers and the need to protect the environments from which our products are grown.

## Innovative (Green) Practices

Finding new and state-of-the-art ways of reducing our impact on the environment is critical to the way we do business. Therefore, we prioritize continual innovation in our planning and company strategy. This could include green energy solutions, recycling/upcycling systems, and reducing GHG emissions, amongst others.



# SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS





The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are a set of 17 interconnected global objectives designed to address some of the world’s most pressing challenges by the year 2030. Adopted by all UN member states in 2015, the SDGs encompass a wide range of ambitious targets, including the eradication of poverty and hunger, ensuring access to quality education and healthcare, promoting gender equality, fostering clean energy and environmental sustainability, and promoting peaceful and inclusive societies. These goals serve as a universal call to action, encouraging collaboration among governments, businesses, civil society, and individuals to work collectively towards building a more equitable, resilient, and sustainable future for people and the planet.

Through the themes and actions laid out within our Sustainability Framework, we aim to contribute to the following SDGs:





# Looking Ahead

As we have long-standing sustainability efforts ongoing, we have integrated our sustainability framework to establish the following initiatives and goals through 2027. We have identified these initiatives as the most relevant and impactful for our supply chains and for our business. We aim to measure our progress and success of these actions by setting ambitious goals in order to challenge ourselves to do more and do better moving forward.





# 01

## Farmer & Agricultural System Programs

Working with farmers and farming communities has been at the core of Red River Foods' sustainability efforts over the years. We recognize that we have a responsibility to farmers to help them optimize their production systems while providing guidance on best or innovative practices. We also work with production communities to boost livelihoods and streamline our procurement activities, through the implementation of income-diversification projects, such as beekeeping.

### Pruning & Thinning

More than 50% of the world's cashew production takes place in Africa, where the crop thrives. One widespread issue with the prevailing production systems is the spacing and maintenance of cashew orchards. Overly dense orchards generally have low yields and are more susceptible to pest and disease pressure. For several years, we have worked with farmers and local chainsaw operators to prune and thin farmers' orchards. We aim to build on this experience and continue supporting farmers to implement this highly impactful practice in their orchards.

### Beekeeping

We encourage and support farmers to learn and implement the practice of beekeeping in their existing agricultural systems, particularly among West African cashew farmers. This practice has several positive impacts on production and livelihoods. By placing beehives in cashew orchards, we can increase pollination, resulting in higher yields, and farmers can also sell honey, wax, and other hive products for additional sources of revenue.

### 2025-2027 Goals

Prune & thin

**200** farms

### 2025 Goal:

Reach **250** active beekeepers in RRF Initiatives

### 2026 Goal:

Achieve **350+** farmers engaged in beekeeping projects

### 2027 Goal:

Establish **honey import** from farmers to U.S. for commercialization





# 02

## Community Development Projects

At Red River Foods, we understand that healthy communities are the foundation of healthy farmers, and a healthy supply chain. We engage directly with community leaders and officials to implement various projects, in particular projects that address gender equality/financial independence and reforestation/land restoration.

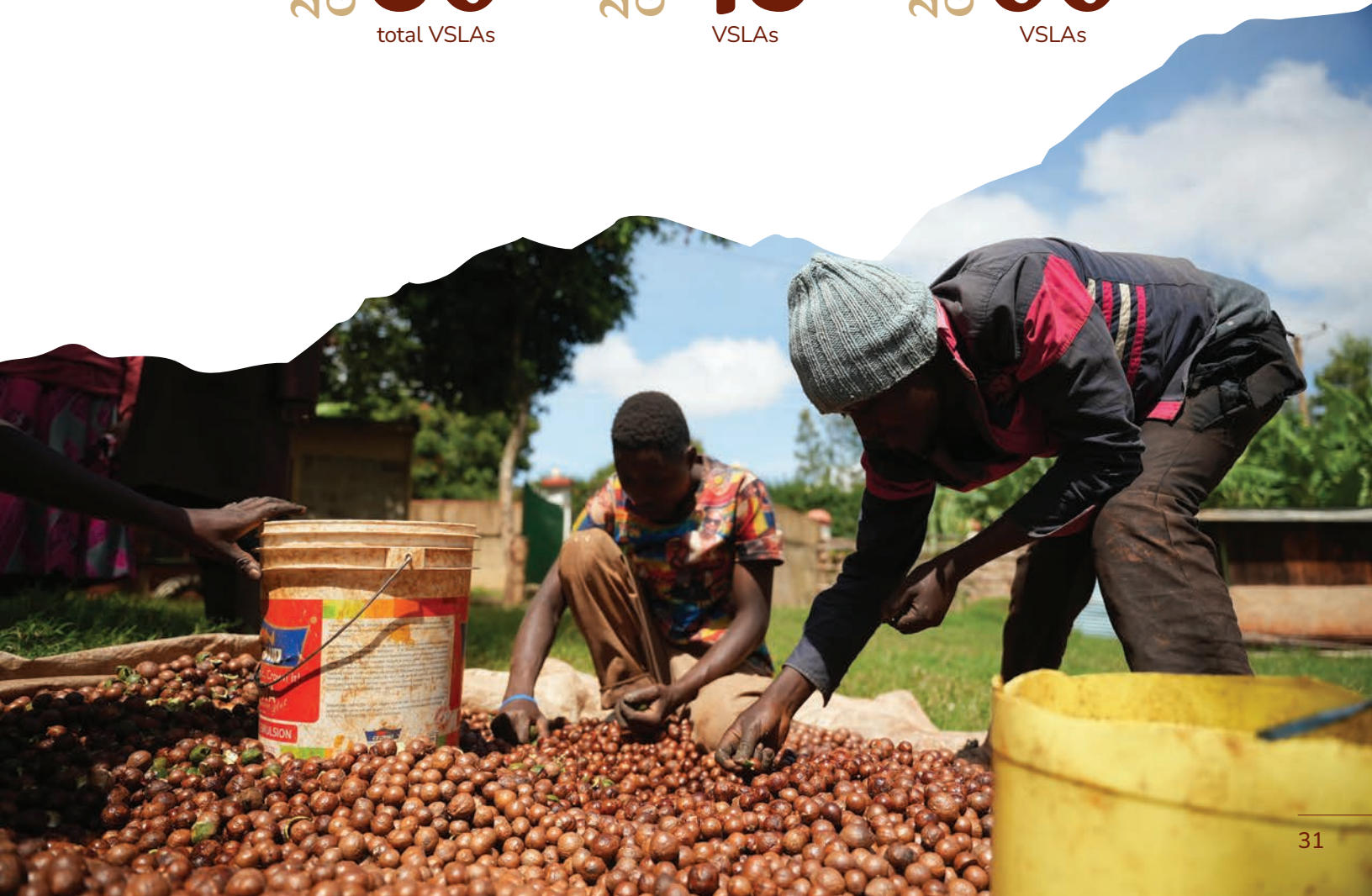
### Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLAs)

VSLAs are informal groups that offer savings, loan, and mutual assistance facilities to members of a community who do not have access to formal financial services. They are autonomous and self-managed groups of a given number of self-selected members. The groups can be mixed or women only. Training is provided to the groups to enable them to manage their activities. At the end of a cycle, the members of a VSLA share the funds in proportion to their savings and start a new cycle if they wish.

Reach  
**2025 Goal 30**  
total VSLAs

Increase to  
**2026 Goal 45**  
VSLAs

Increase to  
**2027 Goal 60**  
VSLAs





# Upcoming Initiatives

## Carbon Emissions

To minimize the negative impacts of our operations, from farm to table, we will strive to assess our impacts and implement innovative solutions to mitigate or minimize them.

**2025  
Goal**

Measure our company's Scope 1 & 2 emissions

**2026  
Goal**

Calculate our Scope 3 emissions

**2027  
Goal**

Develop our decarbonization strategy and roadmap



