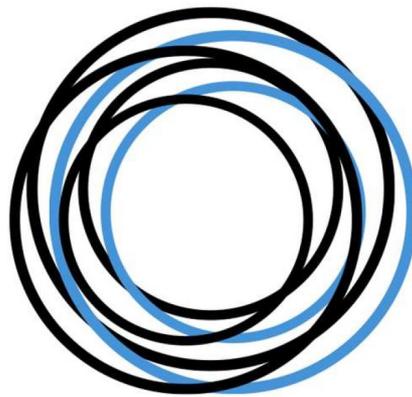


# SUMMARY

## Agricultural Abundance Program



'25 IN 25'

"We are proud to present the Agricultural Abundance program to those who depend on our most valuable resources - the soil and fresh water which sustain all life - to produce the food we all rely on. Restoration of these resources is what must happen if there is to be a sustainable solution to the production of food for a growing world population."

Agricultural Abundance Global Trust



# Framework rationale

At VRM Biologik®, our mission is to restore 25% of the world's top soil in 25 years. We have science-driven technology and 30 years of on-farm evidence that this is possible at global scale right now. But we can't do it alone. We need like-minded people to join us.

Therefore, the company commissioned the development of a framework to coalesce and support farmers and the communities and industries which support them to actively participate in the restoration of land and water in a healthy living biome capable of consistent, quality production. A framework that balances economic, social and ecological priorities and benefits to create a robust and replicable industrial scale outcome. A framework that includes transparent evaluation and scrutiny of outcomes at the highest level.

And so the Agricultural Abundance Program was borne. The framework identifies and activates a collaborative agricultural community to restore 350,000 acres of private or community owned land where depleted soil and water resources currently threaten food and fodder production. The global framework is delivered locally and tailored to meet local needs. The Program will:

- restore soil quality
- improve soil moisture
- reduce farm input costs
- rectify acidic or sodic soils
- reduce odour or contamination caused through intensive animal farming activities

The ultimate result for farmers is an improved bottom line, increased margins and more consistent yields, year on year. On any farm, anywhere in the world.

Given soil restoration requires time, the Program seeks farmer participation for 5 year and includes soil monitoring and evaluation throughout the entire timeframe. Analysis of the soil data serves to encourage and inform farmers on the progress being made towards a healthy sustainable soil biome.

Farmers decide the portion or percentage of land they will restore each year through the Program. This might be a small portion of land, others may elect to scale up to their entire land owning over the Program. Regardless, the Program allows farmers to commence soil restoration in a supported and controlled manner, using the soil testing data to inform subsequent and future decisions. The Program comes with access to \$18.4m in farming subsidies and support.



# Objectives

Globally, soils are under threat. If we are to have sustainable societies, they will be built on healthy soils. Healthy soils promote crop productivity and nutrition boosting farmer resilience and economic stability.

## Environmental

- Reverse land degradation on demonstration sites and improve soil health
- Effective collection, processing and re-use of bulk organic residues for sustainable on-farm use
- Improve the quality of the local urban and rural environments by addressing a combination of the following:
  - noise
  - odour
  - chemical over-use
  - biodiversity threats
  - dumping of organic waste
  - water quality
- Close energy, nutrient, waste and water cycles through sustainable food systems
- Reduce water contamination from farm run-off

## Social

- Reduce negative community impacts of farming practices and ensure farmers can carry out farming activities with long term security (social licence)
- Preserve the importance and potential of agricultural land

“If we are to have sustainable societies, they will be built on healthy soils”

## Economic

- Create farmer driven hubs for the development of organic residue processing
- Maximise the financial value of soft putrescent food waste and other bulk organic residues for farmers and land owners
- Improve crop productivity
- Improve year on year yield

“Healthy soils promote crop productivity and nutrition boosting farmer resilience”



# Delivery Principles

The Program aims to support farmers regenerate soil and water resources, minimise synthetic farming inputs and associated costs, and maximise year on year yield independent of external climate factors and negative climate events. Accordingly, the Program has been developed to support farmers access the knowledge, support, processes and products required to achieve Agricultural Abundance.

The principles underpinning the Program are:

- Farmers will maintain authority over decisions regarding their farm business but must demonstrate commitment to restoring soil health and willingness to implement the Program
- Farmers will be provided with targeted and responsive technical advice
- Farmers will work in collaboration with the waste sector, stakeholders in the agricultural supply chain sector, academics, as well as with regulators and government authorities
- Funding will be allocated to an Alliance on a merit based system where extent of farm impact, development of legacy activities and development of transferrable knowledge outputs will be key considerations
- The Program's off-set investment risk strategy supports the restoration of 350,000 acres of land
- Farm demonstration activities are intended to be catalytic in nature to generate legacy ecological benefits to the land and economy beyond the life of the Program.



# Six Phases



**Activation and agreement**, identification of respected local influencer(s) to play a catalytic role in bringing together a cluster of farmers, government and industry representatives. Assessment of need, capture of shared business development goals and identification of the opportunity for a collaborative enterprise approach to soil regeneration of 350,000 acres over five years. Following the expressions of interest (EOI) this phase concludes with the formation of an Alliance.



**Investment in localised manufacturing and distribution**, sourcing local supply of manure, sewerage sludge, green waste, crop residues, soft putrescent food waste as a direct input into the Groundswell® and Bio-Regen® processes, identification of the lead processors and establishment of distribution and delivery techniques to reflect local need.



**Delivery of farm demonstration projects**, commencing on a small parcel of land allowing time for farmers and land managers to up-skill and build confidence in the agricultural outcomes. In year two and again in year three farmers will significantly increase the number of acres being restored on their farm. By the end of year three the total of Alliance land being restored will be 350,000 acres. Demonstration sites continue for a period of 5 years for monitoring, testing and soil sample analysis. Outcomes are reported for individual farms and the collective. Demonstration sites are eligible for a subsidy of the input costs for at least two years (capped at \$60/acre). For the balance costs are capped at \$90/acre, however on-farm manufacturing of HumiSoil® will significantly reduce this cost.



**Communications** will develop and implement the communications strategy for all internal and external stakeholders critical to the success of the Alliance. This will include a dedicated Program web platform with dashboard style reporting of all activities and outcomes. Communications activities will involve engaging with stakeholders, building Program awareness and driving participation. For investors and funders, dedicated communication mechanisms will be developed to ensure timely, accurate and relevant information can be presented to support requisite reporting requirements.



**Program advocacy**, a number of evaluation activities detailed within the monitoring and evaluation framework will be carried out throughout and at the conclusion of the five year Program. Based on evidence, participants will continue to manufacture and apply HumiSoil® beyond the five years and will advocate for broader farmer participation. This will support VRM Biologik® in adding to its mission to restore 25% of the world's topsoil resources within 25 years.



**Increased production capacity and expansion**, throughout the entire Program, participants, investors, academics, industry advisors, industrial food producers, government agencies, observers and influencers work together to scale up production of input products such that there is sufficient capacity to ensure sustained production locally. The extended manufacture and maturation process will have concluded during the first two years and the established distribution model that has serviced the Alliance participants will be ready to scale up and roll out to more farmers beyond the footprint of the Alliance. This may happen as early as year three.



# Governance

A robust governance structure has been established to oversee delivery of the Program and reflects:

- the global scope and scale of the Program being delivered
- the importance of testing and validating outcomes of each and every Alliance over a period of five years
- the importance of global data aggregation and open and accountable communication of findings
- the level of government, industry and public interest in working collaboratively to create sustainable food production systems
- the need for risk-offset funding to build stakeholder confidence via proof of concept
- the ultimate desire for scaling up local Alliance activities to include more farmers and land managers.

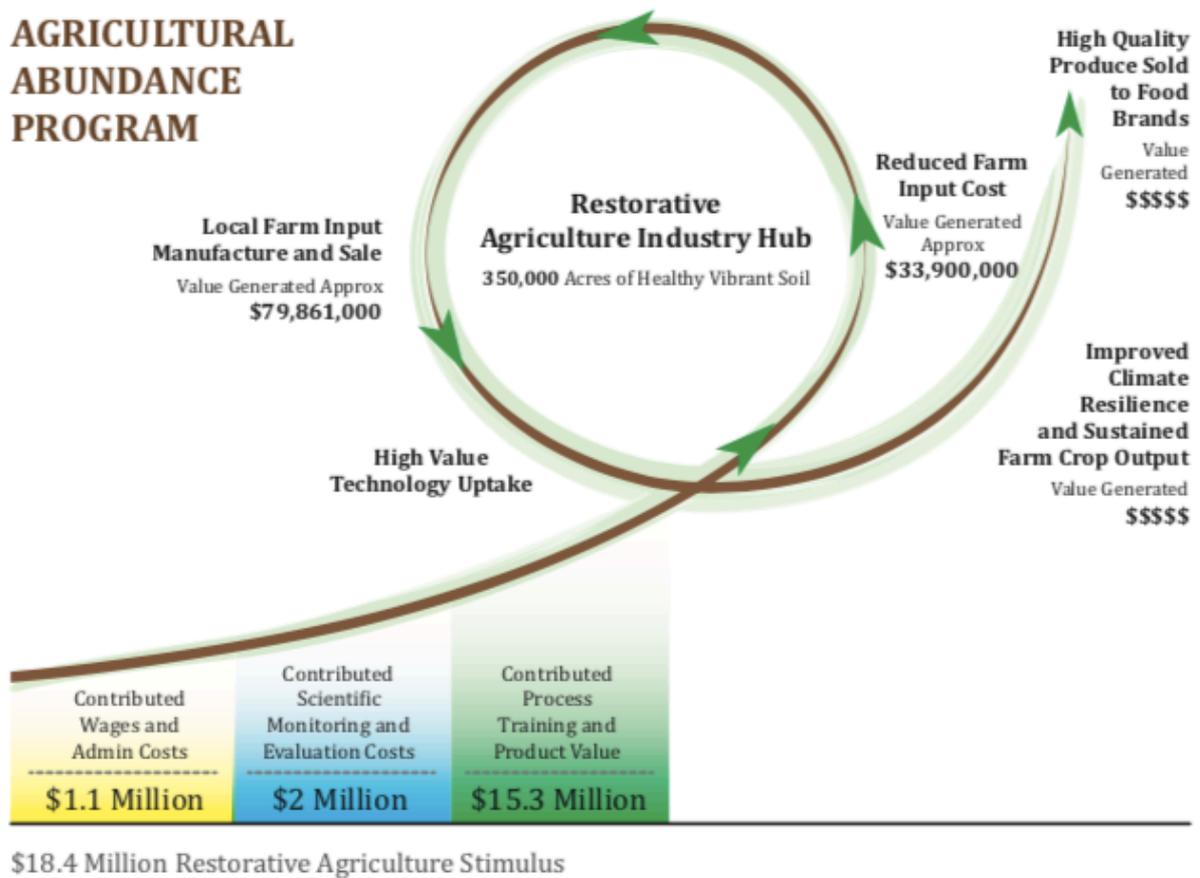
Program governance will be delivered by a team that consists of the Agricultural Abundance Global Trust (AAGT), Local Alliance Steering Committee (ASC) and the Global Technical Review Committee (GTRC). This governance team ensures transparent and accountable decision-making, whilst maximising the use of local knowledge, expertise and grassroots-connected industry stakeholders.



# Beyond the Program

“Soils belong in the Boardroom and on the Balance sheet - they present risks and returns for every business”<sup>1</sup>

The Agricultural Abundance program provides an economic stimulus which allows sustained buy in sufficient to create a restorative agriculture industry hub rooted in local manufacture and delivery of efficient and inexpensive farm inputs.



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<sup>1</sup> The Business Case for Investing in Soil Health, WBCSD

