UNDERSTANDING BIODIVERSITY IN OUR SUPPLY CHAIN

The Nature Impact Assessment

Nature is at the heart of our business. Healthy soils, flowing water, pollinators and resilient ecosystems are essential for producing fruits and vegetables. When these systems come under pressure, ecosystem services become less reliable, leading to lower yields, higher costs and increased vulnerability to climate and environmental risks.

In 2025 we launched our Nature Impact Assessment as part of Our Care for People and Nature 2028 to better understand the risks and opportunities related to water, biodiversity and climate across our sourcing regions.

BIODIVERSITY AS THE FOUNDATION OF AGRICULTURE

Agriculture depends on biodiversity. Pollinators enable fruit development, soil organisms maintain fertility, and surrounding ecosystems regulate pests, water, and diseases.

When biodiversity declines, these ecosystem services can become disrupted. This can reduce crop yields, increase production costs and make production systems more vulnerable to drought, pests and extreme weather. Beyond its practical importance, we also recognize the intrinsic value of nature. Protecting biodiversity is not only about securing resources, it reflects our responsibility to care for nature.

At the same time, working with nature offers a clear opportunity: supporting our supply chain to become more resilient while reducing environmental impact.

Picture of a pollinator

WHAT ARE ECOSYSTEM SERVICES?

Ecosystem services are the benefits nature provides to farming. Pollinators help fruits grow, soil organisms keep the soil fertile, and surrounding ecosystems regulate water, prevent erosion, and control pests naturally. Protecting these services supports both productivity and environmental health.

WHAT IS NATURAL PEST CONTROL?

Natural pest control uses nature's own systems to reduce crop pests instead of relying solely on chemicals. For example, flowers or hedges around fields can attract beneficial insects like ladybugs that eat pests. This helps maintain healthy crops while supporting biodiversity.

A portfolio-wide analysis

We conducted an assessment of our entire sourcing portfolio, reviewing more than 250 product-country combinations to understand the interaction between agriculture and different ecosystems. This enabled us to prioritize the regions to focus our efforts. The analysis combined environmental data with supply chain knowledge and looked at factors such as water stress, land use, ecological sensitivity and pressure on natural habitats.

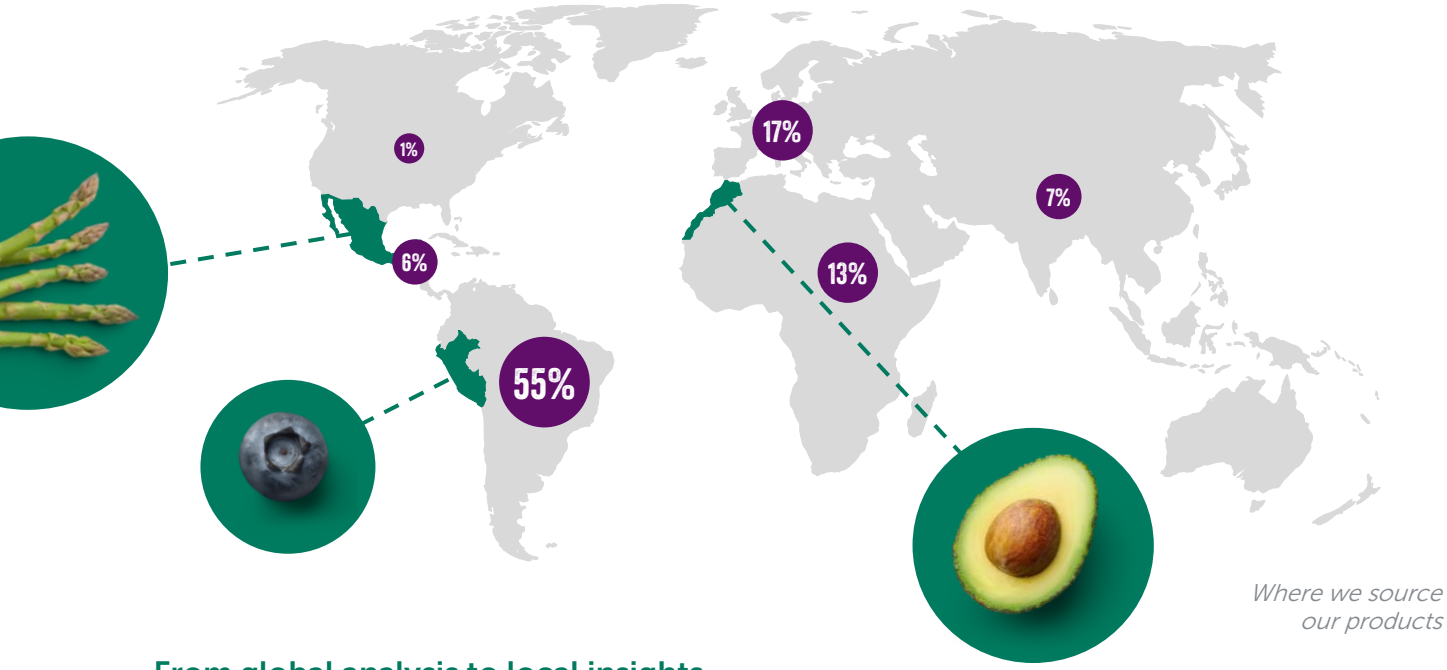
One of the key insights from this analysis was how closely agricultural production is connected to local environmental conditions. Many regions where fresh produce is grown are already facing increasing pressure on natural resources.

Water availability, for example, emerged as a key factor in several regions, where agriculture relies heavily on irrigation but water resources are limited. This reinforces our existing priorities on water and strengthens our understanding of the link between water and biodiversity.

We developed a structured scoring model that evaluates risks, opportunities and strategic relevance across our portfolio. This allows us to prioritize where action will have the greatest impact.

Click the link
TO LEARN MORE

About our journey on water stewardship: from farm practices to collective action at catchment level.



Where we source our products

From global analysis to local insights

Based on the initial screening, 15 product–country combinations were selected for deeper analysis at regional and field level. From these, three sourcing regions were chosen for detailed case studies:

- Green asparagus in Mexico
- Blueberries in Peru
- Avocados in Morocco

These regions represent different ecosystems and production contexts. By combining environmental field-level analysis with interviews with local stakeholders, we gained a clearer understanding of how agricultural production interacts with nature in practice.

In Peru and Morocco, agricultural expansion is taking place in naturally arid regions where irrigation is essential. Efficient technologies such as drip irrigation are widely used, but increasing cultivated areas can still put pressure on local water resources.

In Mexico, the analysis highlighted the importance of natural vegetation and healthy soils in supporting productive farming systems in semi-arid regions. Intensive irrigation and agricultural expansion can degrade soils and reduce natural vegetation, limiting their ability to retain water and nutrients. As a result, biodiversity declines and ecosystem functions such as soil fertility, water regulation and natural pest control become less effective.

At the same time, many growers already implement practices that support ecosystem health. These measures often improve productivity while also contributing to biodiversity.

WHAT OUR GROWERS ARE ALREADY DOING

Many growers in our supply chain are taking steps to reduce their impact on ecosystems, such as:

- Using drip irrigation to reduce water use
- Maintaining natural vegetation along fields
- Improving soil management practices

These actions support both agricultural productivity and biodiversity and we continue to support growers to expand on these types of practices. See our GLOBALG.A.P. Biodiversity pilot.

What we learned

The Nature Impact Assessment led to several key insights:

Biodiversity is closely linked to other environmental topics

Biodiversity does not exist in isolation. Healthy soils, water availability, pollinators, and natural pest control all rely on one another. When one system is under pressure, the others are affected too.

Across our sourcing regions, we see the same pattern: when natural systems degrade, productivity becomes less stable. When ecosystems are strengthened, water efficiency, soil health and natural pest control improve, supporting more resilient yields.
Protecting biodiversity is therefore not just about species counts - it's about supporting the functioning ecosystems that agricultural production relies on.

The local context determines what works

Every region has its own challenges and opportunities. A solution that succeeds in Peru may not work in Morocco. Climate, soil type, and water availability all shape which practices are effective.

For example, irrigation efficiency is critical in Peru and Morocco where water is scarce. In Mexico, maintaining healthy soils and natural vegetation is the key to resilient yields in semi-arid conditions. Our case studies show that a one-size-fits-all program will not work. Solutions must start with the most relevant issue for growers, often water or climate, and build from there.

Relationships are the foundation for impact

Strong, trust-based relationships with our growers are essential. They allow growers to share data, experiment with new practices, and engage over the long term. On-farm projects let growers implement solutions directly, adapt practices to their own fields, and see improvements in soil health, water management, biodiversity and production.

Some challenges extend beyond individual farms. In these cases, collective action is key to addressing shared risks like water scarcity, habitat loss, or ecosystem degradation. Both bilateral projects and collective initiatives are essential, and each can create meaningful, lasting impact.

WHAT IS COLLECTIVE ACTION?

Collective action means working together with growers, companies, and local stakeholders to manage shared resources, like water, soil, and habitats. By coordinating efforts, we can protect ecosystems and improve long-term resilience across entire regions.

Nature's Pride is an initiator and leading contributor to collective action initiatives in Peru, Spain, and Chile. See also how Nature's Pride's CEO, Adriëlle Dankier, advocated for collective action to secure healthy food systems at COP29.

Next steps for Our Care for People and Nature

The Nature Impact Assessment has provided a strong basis to move Our Care for People and Nature from insight to action. We have defined priorities focusing on regions and products where targeted action can have the most positive impact on both production systems and ecosystems, based on our portfolio analysis.

Together with growers, we will work to support and expand regenerative practices. We will scale solutions by sharing knowledge and expanding on successful approaches. And we will strengthen collaboration at landscape level where collective action is needed to address systemic challenges.

Our goal is clear: to support ecosystems for People, Nature, and the agriculture of our products, to ensure the long-term availability of fresh fruits and vegetables — today and tomorrow.

Visiting our growers

Working together to understand nature risks

Creating impact starts with collaboration. Because biodiversity and ecosystem impacts are complex, we worked with expert partners.

Leaf Turtle supported the environmental analysis of our sourcing regions and provided strategic advice on how these insights can guide next steps on sourcing and supplier engagement strategy.

Ad Astra Sustainability led the GIS and database work, translating extensive spatial data into actionable insights to inform the strategy.

Together with these partners and our growers, we built a clearer understanding of how agricultural production and ecosystems interact across our product portfolio.

NATURE IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Growers	Stakeholders	Expert partners	Nature's Pride & Berries Pride
Field insights	Policy & Governance context	Strategic advice, GIS & database analysis, stakeholder engagement	Coordination & Strategy development

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