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The Regeneration International Standard with Guidance Version 4, August 2026

REGENERATION INTERNATIONAL	6771 South Silver Hill Dr. Finland, MN 55603, USA https:// regenerationinternational.org
Regeneration International Standard	**Guidance for Certifiers and Operators. The guidance is this section are summaries. The Guidance Documents Annexes A,B,C,D&E provide detailed explanations and context.**
Agriculture shall change from chemically intensive degenerative industrial systems to regenerative, biological, biodiverse, nature-based ones to regenerate our ecosystems, climate, health, and communities. Such systems improve resources, reduce, and ultimately avoid synthetic chemicals. It is not based on animal or plant cruelty. Instead, its foundations are biodiversity, plant biology, living soil science, and humane livestock systems.	
Overview of Standard	
This standard is brief and direct instead of a lengthy, complex regulatory document. It aims to be user-friendly for farmers and landholders. Regeneration International will periodically update this standard.	The Regeneration International Standard has been crafted in a format that is more accessible for farmers, rather than adopting a regulatory standard format.
It has the Definition, General Principles, Guidance, Clear prohibitions and Management Plan.	The Definition, General Principles and Guidance are Informative. The Prohibitions and Management Plans are Normative and Mandatory.
Apart from the prohibitions, it uses principles and guidance rather than mandated practices so farmers and land managers can make decisions based on the most appropriate practices and inputs and encourage innovation. The primary purpose of this standard is to assist in a paradigm shift from the current degenerative industrial-agricultural systems into systems that regenerate soil, biodiversity, climate, community, fairness, care, and health.	
This standard's three levels of certification, the informative annexes, the use of management plans, and the practice of continuous improvement are designed to make the paradigm shift easy to achieve by taking small steps, rather than having a major change imposed on operators. It empowers operators to be in control of the decisions and practices needed to achieve their goals.	
Operators can get certified to the following levels.	
• Regenerative A Grade - meeting all the requirements	

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• Regenerative in Transition - in the process of meeting all the requirements	
• In Transition - starting the process of meeting all the requirements	
Operators can be certified to other standards and schemes.	
The Definition of Regenerative Agriculture	**The Definition, General Principles, Guidance are Informative**
Regenerative systems improve the environment, soil, plants, animal welfare, health, and communities.	
The opposite of Regenerative is Degenerative	
This is an essential distinction in determining practices that are not regenerative.	
Agricultural systems that use Degenerative Practices and inputs that damage the environment, soil, health, genes, and communities and involve animal cruelty are not regenerative.	
Synthetic toxic pesticides, synthetic water-soluble fertilizers, genetically modified organisms, confined animal feeding operations, overgrazing, exploitive marketing and wage systems, destructive tillage systems, and clearing high-value ecosystems are examples of degenerative practices.	These are examples of some degenerative practices. There are many more and using IFOAM-Organics International's Four Principles of Organic Agriculture is the recommended way to determine if practices are regenerative or degenerative.
Such systems shall be called degenerative agriculture to stop greenwashing and hijacking.	
The best way to determine if practices and inputs are regenerative or degenerative is IFOAM-Organics International's Four Principles of Organic Agriculture.	The Definition, General Principles, Guidance are Informative
Health	
Organic agriculture should sustain and enhance the health of soil, plant, animal, human and planet as one and indivisible.	
Ecology	
Organic agriculture should be based on living ecological systems and cycles, work with them, emulate them and help sustain them.	
Fairness	
Organic agriculture should build on relationships that ensure fairness with regard to the common environment and life opportunities.	
Care	

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Organic agriculture should be managed in a precautionary and responsible manner to protect the health and well-being of current and future generations and the environment.	
1.0 General Principles and Guidance on Best Practices	**1.0 The Definition, General Principles, Guidance are Informative**
	See Guidance Documents Annexes A,B,C & D for detailed explanations
1.1 Maximize Photosynthesis	
1.1.1 Agriculture starts with plants, which create soil by using photosynthesis to feed the microbiome with the molecules of life.	
1.1.2 Plants will hardly grow in freshly ground rock. However, if you add organic matter, they will grow. Plants do this naturally, creating soil.	
1.1.3 The key to successful regenerative agriculture is maximizing the capture of solar energy through photosynthesis in plant leaves. This solar energy powers the production system that feeds the soil microbiome, making nutrients, water, pest, and disease management available to plants and animals. Photosynthesis is the basis of most life on our planet—directly and indirectly. We use this energy to power farming and ranching systems. The key to getting the highest productivity is collecting as much photosynthesis energy as possible to power the system.	
1.1.4 95% to 98% of plants' biomass comprises water and carbon dioxide (CO_2). Through photosynthesis, plants harness the sun's energy to create glucose, the essential molecule for life. Glucose is the basis for all molecules of life and is the substance most living organisms need for energy, growth, reproduction, and survival.	
1.2 Regenerate Soil	
1.2.1 Soil is fundamental to all terrestrial life on this planet. It is the source of our food and biodiversity. Soil is not inert dirt—it is living, breathing, and teeming with life. The soil microbiome is our planet's most complex and richest biodiversity area. The rhizosphere, the region around plant roots, has the greatest biodiversity.	
1.2.2 Plants feed the soil microbiome with the molecules of life they create through photosynthesis. These molecules are the basis of organic matter—carbon-based molecules—on which all life on Earth depends. Organic matter is fundamental to all life, and soil organic matter (SOM) is essential to life in the soil.	

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1.2.3 Farming practices that enhance SOM improve soil fertility, increase water retention capacity, and strengthen resilience to pests and diseases, thereby boosting agricultural systems' productivity. As SOM comes from carbon dioxide fixed during photosynthesis, increasing SOM can significantly benefit the climate by removing this greenhouse gas from the atmosphere.	
1.2.4 The fact is that our health and wealth come from the soil.	
1.3 Cash Crops and Cover Crops	
A cash crop is a crop we eat, swap, or sell. A cover crop is a crop we grow to feed the soil microbiome and produce fertility and nutrients for the cash crop. Both can be the same, such as pastures for livestock.	
1.3.1 Maximize living plants and deep roots	
1.3.1.1 A key principle is to ensure that agricultural systems include photosynthesizing plants for the longest possible durations within their climates. *Dead plants and bare soil do not photosynthesize.* Consequently, the most productive regenerative systems avoid using herbicides and excessive tillage to kill plants. Instead, plants are managed as ground covers and cover crops to enhance soil fertility, maximizing the carbon compounds that roots secrete into the soil.	
1.3.1.2 As plants grow, 10% to 40% of these molecules of life are secreted into the soil through the roots. Thanks to the depth of the roots, these carbon compounds penetrate deeper into the soil than above-ground or tilled SOM, which can quickly convert back into CO_2. Systems with deeper roots are preferred because their carbon compounds help build more durable SOM, making deep soil carbon more stable.	
1.3.2 Maximize Soil Cover	
1.3.2.1 A general principle is to cover the soil with the highest possible amount of living plants for as long as possible. Bare soil is vulnerable to wind and water erosion. Plant cover protects the soil and serves as a silt trap to prevent erosion. *Bare soil and dead plants do not photosynthesize*.	
1.3.3 Increase Diversity	

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1.3.3.1 Utilizing a diverse range of well-managed plant species ensures maximum sunlight capture per acre or hectare. This captured sunlight provides the energy needed to convert CO_2 into organic compounds that contribute to SOM through the soil microbiome. Maintaining permanent covers of living plants and implementing limited tillage systems are the most effective methods for increasing SOM. Properly managed polycultures are more resilient and produce higher yields than monocultures.	
1.3.4 Increase Perennials	
1.3.4.1 Perennials have longer photosynthesis periods and deeper root systems. Choosing the right species can yield fruit, fodder, and nitrogen, which boosts resilience to climate extremes like droughts, floods, and storms. Overall, they need less management than annuals.	
1.4 Minimize Disturbance	
1.4.1 Short-term soil disturbances, such as animal trampling in pastures and effective tillage practices, help aerate the soil. This process encourages soil microbes to decompose organic matter, releasing essential nutrients.	
1.4.2 There is considerable misunderstanding about the role of microbes in oxidizing SOM. Some degree of oxidation is necessary to free minerals vital for crop growth. Without sufficient oxidation, many minerals remain trapped within organic matter.	
1.4.3 The key is to effectively manage the cycles of both short-term and long-term SOM fractions. The short-term fraction should continuously cycle and release nutrients to support crop growth, which can be achieved while enhancing the stable long-term soil organic matter fractions.	
1.5 Strip tilling	
1.5.1 Strip tilling minimizes soil disturbance during cultivation. Most soil remains uncultivated as the crop is sown in the tilled strips. The most effective weed management strategies involve turning them into cover crops. Pasture cropping is one of the best examples of implementing this approach.	
1.6 Maximize Recovery	

1.6.1 Ecosystems naturally regenerate once a disturbance stops. Consequently, regenerative agriculture not only maintains resources but also improves them. Understanding how to manage this powerful force is essential. Maximizing recovery after grazing, tillage, and other disturbances allows the plants and soil to reach their full production potential.	
1.7 Integrate Livestock	
1.7.1 Livestock can manage weeds, pests, and diseases, supply nitrogen via manure, and increase SOM.	
1.7.2 Various strategies are used to manage weeds and use them as cover crops to build fertility. Grazing is a widespread management tool for these regenerative systems. Many systems, known by different names, fall under the heading of regenerative grazing, such as Holistic Planned Grazing, AMP grazing, cell grazing, mob grazing, and rotational grazing.	
1.7.3 Overgrazing occurs when animals graze for too long without allowing the ecosystem sufficient time to recover. When many animals graze briefly, allowing the vegetation adequate time to heal before returning them to the field mimics the natural grazing patterns of herding animals and enhances biodiversity. Even a low stocking density of animals that continuously eat their favored species can damage plants because they cannot recover.	
1.8 Maximize Efficiency	
1.8.1 The best regenerative farmers redesign farming systems to create a series of integrated systems that prevent pests and diseases, giving the cash crop a significant advantage. They aim to take a whole-systems approach, resulting in a resilient, low-input, high-output farm. This is where effective traditional practices, scientific rigor, and farmer-led innovations combine to produce new systems, applying an ecological approach to agriculture.	
1.8.2 Ecosystem-based regenerative production systems manage biodiversity to achieve the optimal utilization of ecosystem services. The aim is to maximize the multi-functional benefits of ecological functions rather than synthetic chemical intensification.	
1.8.3 These services encompass pest and disease management, water retention and drainage, soil enhancement, soil biology and fertility, nutrient cycling, nitrogen fixation, photosynthesis, CO_2 removal, diversity in crops and animal species, pollination, and many others.	
2.0 Education to Train Farmers in Best Practices	**2.0 Education is encouraged and is Informative not Mandatory**

2.1 This standard is based on a culture of continuous improvement. Certified operators are encouraged to take courses and workshops on best practices such as but not limited to:	
· Regenerating soils	
· Nutrient balancing	
· Organic agriculture	
· Agroecology	
· Regenerative grazing	
· Animal husbandry	
· Cover and pasture cropping	
· Permaculture	
· Agroforestry	
· Biodynamics	
3.0 Prohibitions	**3.0 Prohibitions - These are Normative and Mandatory. The Guidance Documents, Annexes A, B, C & D, provide detailed explanations and context regarding what is prohibited, why, and the alternatives.**
3.1 Synthetic pesticides	**3.1 Synthetic pesticides**
The definition of synthetic is in 7.0	3.1.1 Synthetic compounds are not permitted. These compounds do not exist naturally and consequently living organisms have not evolved to adapt to them. Extensive research shows that they cause numerous environmental and health problems such as disruptions to endocrine, immune and nervous systems. They are strongly implicated in the epidemic of noncommunicable chronic diseases, including heart disease, stroke, cancer, chronic respiratory diseases, and diabetes.
The definition of natural is in 7.0	3.1.2 Naturally occurring compounds are permitted for pest and disease management. See Guidance Document Annex D.
3.2 Synthetic and non-certified animal feed supplements	**3.2 Synthetic and non-certified animal feed supplements**
The definition of synthetic is in 7.0	3.2.1 Synthetically produced substances such as hormones, amino acids, antibiotics, and urea cannot be used as feed additives.
The definition of natural is in 7.0	3.2.2 Natural substances such as salt licks, seaweed, lime, diatomaceous earth, and dolomite are permitted. See Guidance Document Annex D.

	3.2.3 Livestock shall be managed to derive most of their nutrition from pasture, and/or agroforestry, and/or natural habitats. Supplementary feed shall form less than 50% of their diet except in adverse circumstances such as droughts, floods, fires, and pest damage to pasture.
3.2.4 Certified Regenerative A Grade and Regenerative In Transition requires that supplementary feed shall be certified to their respective levels in this standard or certified organic. The exception is when feed is needed in adverse circumstances such as droughts, floods, fires, and pest damage to pasture.	3.2.4 This is to avoid prohibited pesticide residues in animal products such meat, milk and eggs. The exception is when feed is needed in adverse circumstances such as droughts, floods, fires, and pest damage to pasture.
3.2.5 Antibiotics and other synthetic compounds are permitted as medications for treating acute diseases; their use shall cease once the animal has recovered.	
3.2.6 Antibiotics and other synthetic compounds cannot be used a prophylactics	.
3.3 Synthetic food additives	**3.3 Synthetic food additives**
The definition of synthetic is in 7.0	3.3.1 Synthetic food additives such as dyes, colorings, preservatives, and flavor enhancers are prohibited.
The definition of natural is in 7.0	3.3.2 Natural food additives such as dyes, colorings, preservatives, and flavor enhancers are permitted.
3.4 Water soluble chemical fertilizers, except for correcting deficiencies with trace elements	**3.4 Water-soluble chemical fertilizers, except for correcting deficiencies with trace elements**
	3.4.1 Water-soluble chemical fertilizers of macronutrients synthesized in factories, such as ammonium nitrate, urea, superphosphate, muriate of potash, etc., are prohibited as they disrupt the soil microbiome and cause imbalances in plant metabolism.
3.4.2 Applying water-soluble trace elements is acceptable when a deficiency is demonstrated. The small amounts do not overwhelm the soil microbiome and assist by correcting deficiencies. See Guidance Document Annex B	3.4.2 Applying water-soluble trace elements is acceptable when a deficiency is demonstrated. The small amounts do not overwhelm the soil microbiome and assist by correcting deficiencies. See Guidance Document Annex B
	3.4.3 Macronutrient deficiencies can be corrected by applying naturally occurring minerals such as lime, dolomite, gypsum, ground basalt, sulfur, etc. See Guidance Document Annex B
3.5 Sewerage sludge/biosolids	**3.5 Sewerage sludge/biosolids**
	3.5.1 Sewerage sludge/biosolids are prohibited, as history shows they can spread human diseases such as hepatitis and may be contaminated with heavy metals and toxic synthetic chemicals like dioxins and PFAS.
3.6 GMOs, including gene editing and GMO vaccines	**3.6 GMOs, including gene editing and GMO vaccines**

	3.6.1 Genetically modified organisms (GMOs) and other artificial genetic modification technologies, such as gene-edited organisms, RNA vaccines, and pesticides, DNA recombinations or modifications that do not happen in nature, are prohibited. A substantial body of scientific research suggests that GMOs have various adverse effects on animals, humans, microorganisms, and the environment. Long-term safety data remain insufficient, so the precautionary principle is applied to prohibit all GMOs.
3.7 Nanotechnology	**3.7 Nanotechnology**
	3.7.1 Many compounds behave differently at the nanoscale, which is one reason why nanotechnology is utilized. Nano-compounds can penetrate cell walls into the nucleus and mitochondria, potentially causing damage. The safety testing data for synthetic nano-scale compounds is insufficient at this stage, so the precautionary principle is applied to prohibit nanotechnology.
3.8 Animal cruelty - all animals shall be able to express their natural habits	**3.8 Animal cruelty - all animals shall be able to express their natural habits**
	3.8.1 All domestic and wild animals shall be treated with respect and not subjected to cruel and painful procedures.
	3.8.2 Whips, electric prods, toothed traps, wire snares, and other painful devices are prohibited.
	3.8.3 Domestic animals shall be allowed to express their natural behaviors, such as dust bathing for chickens and rooting or wallowing for pigs.
	3.8.4 Adequate shelter from adverse weather, including trees for shade and windbreaks from storms, is essential and shall be provided.
	3.8.5 Livestock shall be allowed to spend most of the day outside of buildings.
	3.8.6 When culling is necessary, it shall be performed in the quickest and least stressful and painful manner.
3.9 Confined Animal Feeding Operations - all animals shall spend adequate time on pasture and/or their natural habitat	**3.9 Confined Animal Feeding Operations - all animals shall spend adequate time on pasture and/or their natural habitat**
	3.9.1 Keeping animals confined 24/7 is prohibited.
	3.9.2 All animals need daily access to pasture and enough time to eat, drink, and express their natural habits outside as per 3.2.3, 3.8.3 and 3.8.5.
3.10 Hydroponics	**3.10 Hydroponics - all systems shall be soil-based**
	3.10.1 Regenerative agriculture is based on regenerating soils. Consequently, non-soil production systems such as hydroponics cannot be regenerative. Putting soil in pots and fertigating plants is not the same as regenerating soil health in farm fields. It is not allowed.

3.11 Clearing old growth and high-value ecosystems	**3.11 Clearing old growth and high-value ecosystems**
	3.11.1 Regenerative agriculture is based on regenerating the environment. Degenerative activities such as clearing old growth and high-value ecosystems have no place in regenerative agriculture.
	3.11.2 The clearing of regrowth and vegetation that has not been historically part of the natural environment is permitted.
	3.11.3 Land already cleared of old growth and high-value ecosystems can be certified provided more than 10 years has past since it was cleared.
3.12 Damaging tillage	**3.12 Damaging tillage**
3.12.1 Damaging tillage refers to the type of tillage that destroys soil structure and/or causes erosion.	3.12.1 Damaging tillage refers to the type of tillage that destroys soil structure and/or causes erosion. See Guidance Documents Annexes A & C.
	3.12.2 Well-structured soils consist of peds formed by organisms nourished by living roots. These organisms bind soil particles together to create peds, resulting in aggregated soil structures that enhance aeration, improve friability, and increase water infiltration and mineral availability. See Guidance Document Annex A.
	3.12.3 Tillage performed too quickly, when the soil is excessively wet or dry, harms the peds and compromises the structure by shearing them or turning them into dust. This results in soil compaction, erosion, and diminished aeration, water infiltration, and mineral availability. See Guidance Document Annex C.
	3.12.4 Strip tillage is preferred over tillage systems that plow the whole field. See Guidance Document Annex C.
3.13 Burning crop residues	**3.13 Burning crop residues**
	1.13.1 Crop residues should be allowed to biodegrade, feeding the soil microbiome. Plants consist mainly of cellulose, made from long chains of glucose and water. The soil microbiome breaks this down and uses glucose as an energy source to support soil health and fertility. Burning destroys this energy source. See Guidance Document Annexes A, B & C.
	3.13.2 Plants also produce lignins, which microorganisms convert into humus, one of the most vital types of soil organic matter. This process is also halted by burning. See Guidance Document Annex C

3.13.3 The exception is First Nations' traditional mosaic burning land management systems that are utilized to regenerate pastures and prevent large, harmful forest and pasture fires. This shall comply with 4.2.6	3.13.3 The exception is First Nations' traditional mosaic burning land management systems that are utilized to regenerate pastures and prevent large, harmful forest and pasture fires. This shall comply with 4.2.6
3.14 Grazing that produces bare soil	**3.14 Grazing that produces bare soil**
	3.14.1 Bare soil and dead plants cannot photosynthesize or create the molecules essential for life. See Guidance Document Annexes A, B & C.
	3.14.2 Bare soil is prone to erosion from rain, wind, and direct sunlight. It also loses moisture because it is exposed to the sun without any shade.
	3.14.3 Living plants provide protection for the soil. Their roots stabilize it by acting as reinforcing rods and feeding microorganisms that secrete substances such as glomalin and humus that glue and build peds to form soil structure.
	3.14.4 Plants mitigate the harmful effects of heavy rainfall and function as silt traps to prevent the loss of topsoil.
	3.14.5 Grazing shall be managed on a rotational basis to ensure that animals are removed before the soil becomes exposed and are not returned until the pasture vegetation has recovered. See Guidance Document Annex C
3.15 Processed Food	**3.15 Processed Food**
	3.15.1 All food shall be unprocessed or minimally processed, such as pressed, fermented, ground, dried, or cooked. This is to prevent claims that junk food is regenerative.
	3.15.2. All oils and compounds shall be extracted by pressing or freeze-drying. Oils and compounds such as caffeine extracted with solvents are prohibited.
4.0 Management Plan - Continuous Improvement, Accountability, and Practices	**4.0 Management Plan - This is Normative and Mandatory**
4.1.1 This standard's most critical aspect is that it helps operators manage the transition to a fully regenerative system. Certified operators shall be inspected and evaluated for progress based on their management plan.	4.1.1 Certified operators shall be subject to at least one inspection per calendar year to determine compliance with this Standard as per 5.0.
4.1.2 Operators can choose their preferred format for documenting their practices, strategies, and maps.	4.1.3 The plan does not have to be detailed; it can be brief. The main thing is to get the operator to start thinking and strategizing differently as part of a paradigm shift. Many farmers have limited literacy skills, and this shall be taken into account to allow them to develop plans that are appropriate to their education levels.
4.1.3 Operators shall document and improve the plan every year. The definition of continuous improvement is in 7.0	4.1.4 Cultivating a culture of continuous improvement is crucial for operators to stay environmentally, socially, and economically viable during uncertain climatic and financial challenges. Operators shall review their management plan annually and document the improvements made in each section.

4.1.5 The best practice for achieving continuous improvement involves evaluating, planning, implementing, documenting, and reviewing results annually.	4.1.5 The best practice to achieve continuous improvement is based on: Evaluate to assess how to make the system work better, Plan, Implement, Document, and Review the results, and repeat every year. However, where operators have limited education, they should document how they reduce prohibited inputs, showing a reduction annually before their audits, complying with 7.0. Similarly, they should document how they are increasing on-farm biodiversity and soil health. The important issue is that operators aren't static, and they are making an effort to regenerate their farms, ranches, and other properties.
4.2 Environmental	**4.2 Environmental**
	See Guidance Document Annex A
4.2.1 **Increasing soil organic matter**	**4.2.1 Increasing Soil Organic Matter**
	4.2.1.1 The management plan encourages operators to adopt practices that increase soil organic matter while avoiding those that decrease it.
	4.2.1.2 Although soil tests are desirable, they are not essential.
	4.2.1.3 Operators are encouraged to implement proven methods such as cover crops, polycultures, agroforestry, and rotational grazing, that allow pastures to recover fully.
	4.2.1.4 They should avoid bare soil, bare fallows, and synthetic nitrogen fertilizers.
	4.2.1.5 Soil should be seeded immediately after tillage. In some systems, natural self-seeding is sufficient.
4.2.2 **Building soil fertility**	**4.2.2 Building soil fertility**
	See Guidance Document Annex B
	4.2.2.1 The management plan describes methods for improving soil fertility, such as cover crops for green manure, legumes for nitrogen, and ground natural minerals such as lime, dolomite, gypsum, basalt, rock phosphate, and trace elements.
	4.2.2.2 While soil tests are desirable, they are not essential.
4.2.3 **Increasing plant and animal biodiversity**	**4.2.3 Increasing plant and animal biodiversity**
	See Guidance Documents Annexes A,B,C & D
	4.2.3.1 The management plan outlines the transition from monocultures to more diverse systems.
4.2.4 **Ground cover and weed management**	**4.2.4 Ground cover and weed management**
	See Guidance Document Annex C

	4.2.4.1 The management plan details the strategy for managing ground covers and weeds, emphasizing the practice of transforming weeds into cover crops.
4.2.5 **Pest and disease management**	**4.2.5 Pest and disease management**
	See Guidance Document Annex D
	4.2.5.1 The management plan outlines the methods for managing pests and diseases, emphasizing ecological approaches instead of sprays.
	4.2.5.2 Annex D to this standard has a positive list of permitted sprays, the criteria for sprays not on the list, and a list of insectary plants that can be used for implementing ecological systems to replace sprays
4.2.6 **First Nations traditional mosaic burning land management**	**4.2.6 First Nations traditional mosaic burning land management**
	4.2.6.1 This section is exclusively for First Nations cultures that incorporate mosaic burning into their food and land management systems and operators who are guided by First Nations managers and practices.
	4.2.6.2 The management plan details the procedures, methods, and timing.
4.2.7 **Minimize plastic**	**4.2.7 Minimize plastic**
	4.2.7.1 The management plan outlines how plastics, particularly single-use plastics, are minimized and substituted with non-toxic alternatives.
4.3 Social	**4.3 Social**
4.3.1 **Fair wages**	**4.3.1 Fair wages**
4.3.1.1 Wages shall be sufficient for workers to have a reasonable standard of living.	
4.3.1.2 The CB and Operator shall know and document the criteria for fair pay sufficient to support a standard of living that enables farm workers to afford food, housing, clothing, healthcare, and education, while also allowing time for family and recreation in the region they are certifying.	
4.3.1.3 Paying award wages is the minimum for countries with regulated wage systems.	
4.3.1.4 Operators and CBs shall know and document the basic minimum wage in their region and work from that as a baseline to determine the payments and hours worked to comply with 4.3.1.1 and 4.3.1.2	
4.3.2 **Gender equity**	**4.3.2 Gender Equity**
4.3.2.1. The operator shall document how they ensure gender equity in their management plan	4.3.2.1 Women and men should have the same life opportunities.

4.3.2.2 The inspector shall talk to workers to ensure compliance.	4.3.2.2 Women are often treated as second-class citizens in many countries. Operators should ensure that women have equal opportunities and wages as men. All workers deserve a safe environment free from sexual harassment and bullying.
4.3.3 **Community engagement**	**4.3.3 Community Engagement**
4.3.3.1 The operator shall document community engagement in their management plan	4.3.3.1 The operator participates in and volunteers for the local community, such as being a member of a sports club, service organization, or history society, buying raffle tickets, and more. This practice is common among most local farmers. Its purpose is to exclude industrial agricultural corporations that do not contribute to the local community.
4.4 Economic Management	**4.4 Economic Management**
4.4.1 **Farm and Ecosystem Management Section**	**4.4.1 Farm and Ecosystem Management Plan and Map**
	4.4.1.1 The management plan includes a basic map of the farm layout and outlines the entire farming system regarding crops and livestock and the management of vegetation and wildlife.
4.4.2 **Marketing Management Section**	**4.4.2 Marketing Management**
	See Guidance Document Annex E
	4.4.2.1 This is essential. Most farms fail because they have difficulty selling their products for a reasonable profit.
	4.4.2.2 Operators shall strategize how, where, when, and to whom they will sell their produce, as well as how to maximize the price they receive in their
4.4.3 **Financial Management Section**	**4.4.3 Financial Management**
	4.4.3.1 Farms need to operate as profitable businesses. The plan shall demonstrate how they reduce their costs and expenses in relation to their income to achieve an annual profit. It doesn't have to be a detailed balance sheet or P&L; rather, it should focus on the strategies to accomplish this.
4.5 Transition Plan	**4.5 Transition Plan**
4.5.1 All operators certified to In Transition shall outline the timeline for reducing and eliminating any prohibited products or production methods in 3.0.	
4.5.2 All operators certified to Regenerative in Transition shall comply with the prohibitions in 3.0.	4.5.2.1 There is no set period for operators to transition to Regenerative A Grade. However, all operators certified to In Transition shall outline time frames and methods for eliminating prohibited inputs and practices listed in 3.0.. This shall be revised annually, with an emphasis on continuous improvement.

4.5.3 The transition plan shall be based on continuous improvement, as defined in 7.0, documenting how regenerative practices are being implemented and the amount of reduction of prohibited products or production methods.	
4.5.4 At the annual inspection, the certified operator shall show the difference in improvement from the previous year's plan as defined in 7.0.	
4.5.5 Operators can achieve Regenerative A Grade when they comply with 3.0 and 4.0	
5.0 Certification Requirements	**5.0 Guidance on Certification Requirements**
5.1.1 Use of the Regeneration International Marks and making claims of compliance with this standard on products shall only be permitted for operators and group certification schemes certified by an accredited certifying body (CB).	5.1.1.1 The primary purpose of this standard is to assist in a paradigm shift from the current degenerative industrial-agricultural systems into systems that regenerate soil, biodiversity, climate, community, fairness, care, and health.
5.1.2. There are no marks for In Transition, and no regenerative compliance claims shall be made on products.	5.1.2.1 Farmers and land managers are encouraged to use this document's guidelines and annexes to make decisions based on the most appropriate practices and inputs, encourage innovation, and improve their agricultural systems.
5.1.3 The Regeneration International Marks shall only be used for Regenerative in Transition and Regenerative A Grade.	
5.1.4 The CB shall be accredited to this standard by Regeneration International and have a signed contract.	
5.2 Compliance to this Standard	
5.2.1 Certified operators shall be subject to at least one inspection per calendar year to determine compliance to this Standard.	
5.2.3 An operator can be certified In Transition after the initial inspection that inspected the property and the plans in 4.0.	
5.2.3 An operator can be certified Regenerative in Transition at the initial inspection on completion of their management plan and an inspection showing that compliance with the plans in 4.0 and avoidance of the prohibitions in 3.0.	5.2.3.1 The whole property shall be certified as complying with Regenerative in Transition. There shall be no split production with part of the property not complying with Regenerative in Transition.
5.2.4 An operator can be certified Regenerative A Grade after one year of Regenerative in Transition if the annual inspection shows the difference in improvement from the previous year in the transition plan in compliance with 4.5.	5.2.4.1 The whole property shall be certified as complying with Regenerative A Grade. There shall be no split production with part of the property not complying with Regenerative A Grade.
5.2.5 At the annual inspection, the In Transition certified operator shall show the reduction in the prohibtions listed in 3.0. and the difference in improvement from the previous year in the transition plan in compliance with 4.5.	
5.2.6 If noncompliance is detected, corrective actions shall be issued.	
5.2.7 If the corrective actions are not completed within the time frame set by the CB, the use of the Regeneration International Marks shall be suspended.	

5.2.8 The use of the Regeneration International Marks shall only be reinstated once the corrective actions have been completed and inspected by the CB.	
5.2.9 If there are concerns about non-compliance, an unannounced inspection is the best way to uncover the truth.	
5.3 Group Certification Scheme	
5.3.1 The Group shall be a registered organization with a group manager who runs the central office and oversees the rules, records, and system requirements for all participants.	
5.3.2 The central office can be a physical or virtual office.	
5.3.3 There is no limit to the size and number of farms, their geographic spread, or income.	
5.4 Internal Control System	
5.4.1 Members of the Group shall develop and use a shared internal control system to make sure everyone follows this standard.	
5.4.2 The internal control system shall be approved by the CB.	
5.4.3 The members of the Group shall appoint senior growers who conduct annual inspections of 100% of growers.	
5.4.4 The senior growers shall be trained by the CB to inspect and produce inspection reports, which are stored in the group's central office.	
5.5 Auditing the Group	
5.5.1 The CB's inspectors shall audit the central office annually and a 5% random sample of group members' properties instead of every single site.	
5.5.2 If noncompliance is found, a further 5% of growers' properties shall be inspected.	
5.5.3 If further noncompliance is detected, the use of the Regeneration International Marks shall be suspended for the whole Group and corrective actions issued.	
5.5.4 The use of the Regeneration International Marks shall only be reinstated once the corrective actions have been completed and inspected by the CB.	
5.6 Chain of Custody	
5.6.1 The operator or group certification scheme shall implement a tracking and tracing system for certified products to ensure that they are not mixed with non-certified material.	

5.6.2 The group certification scheme shall implement a tracking and tracing system for certified products to ensure that Regenerative in Transition is not mixed with Regenerative A Grade material.	
5.6.3 The operator or group certification scheme shall ensure that all invoices for the sale of certified material are retained as records for five (5) years and include the information required by the CB.	
6.0 Post Production Requirements	**6.0 Post Production**
6.1.1 The processor shall be certified by a CB complying with 5.0 and 5.2.	
6.1.2 The processor shall follow the chain of custody guidelines in 5.6.	
6.1.3 The post-production process for Regenerative A Grage, Regenerative in Transition, and Made with Regenerative shall be documented in the management plan to show that no prohibited practices or inputs in 3.0 were used and that it complies with 6.2, 6.3, 6.4, and 6.5, validated as part of the inspection or audit.	
6.1.4 If there are concerns about non-compliance, an unannounced inspection is the best way to uncover the truth.	
6.2 Certified Regenerative A Grade and Regenerative in Transition Products	
6.2.1 Certified Regenerative A Grade and Regenerative In Transition products shall contain a minimum of 95% Regenerative A Grade ingredients, with the remaining ingredients complying with the prohibitions in 3.0.	
6.3 Made With Regenerative	**6.3 Made With Regenerative**
6.3.1 Made with Regenerative A Grade and Regenerative In Transition products shall contain a minimum of 75% certified ingredients, with the remaining ingredients complying with the prohibitions in 3.0.	6.3.1.1 We created this standard to encourage farmers and others to change their practices. Made With Regenerative will help farmers market their products.
6.3.4 Added water is not included as part of the percentage.	
6.3.5 Compost and seeds used in production systems, such as mushrooms, sprouts, and wheat/barley grass, shall come from farms certified to this standard.	
6.4 Production Facilities	
6.4.1 All facilities and utensils shall be cleaned with natural soaps before the start of production.	
6.4.2 Hydrogen peroxide and/or steam cleaning shall be used where facilities and utensils need to be sterilized.	
6.4.3 Added water shall be microfiltrated to remove chlorine, fluoride, pesticides, microplastics, and other toxic residues and pathogens.	
6.4.4 Ultra violet light can be used to sterilize water and utensils to kill pathogens	

6.4.5 Pest and disease management shall comply with 4.2.5.	
6.5 Record Keeping	
6.5.1 The operator, processor or group certification scheme shall retain all records, such as the management plans and certification reports that relate to the certified operation, for a period of at least five (5) years.	
6.6 Apiaries	**6.4 Apiaries**
6.6.1 Apiaries in a forest, certified Regenerative A Grade ranch or farm. The honey can be certified as Regenerative A Grade. The apiary operator shall document the relevant practices in their management plan.	6.6.1.1 Apiaries in a forest, ranch or farm exemplify our goals. They help preserve biodiversity by supporting bees, which pollinate plants. The forests, fruit trees, and flowering crops provide value to the community and the environment, and harvesting honey creates economic incentives to sustain these natural and agro ecosystems. They enhance soil organic matter; bees serve as vital indicators for pesticides and pollutants. Healthy bees indicate a healthy environment. The honey can be certified as Regenerative A Grade. The apiary operator shall document the relevant practices in their management plan.
6.6.2 Honey from apiaries use to pollinate farms where synthetic pesticides are used cannot be certified under this standard.	
7.0 Definitions	
Added water: water that is added to the processed product. CB: Certification body. Continuous Improvement: the ongoing process of analyzing performance, identifying opportunities, and making incremental changes to processes, inputs, and products. Natural: anything existing in, or derived from, nature rather than being made or caused by humans Synthetic: something made artificially by humans, usually through chemical or physical processes, rather than occurring naturally	