TNC Row Crop Principles

TNC has developed a set of science based principles to help define row crop sustainability and provide a means for companies to recognize positive production practices. The principles are not intended to be a certification system or to replace any existing certification system. Rather, the principles are a framework to help companies achieve their sustainability goals.

- **Soil Health:**
  Crops are grown using practices that improve soil health, which should include:
  - Minimize soil disturbances
  - Maximize soil cover
  - Maximize biodiversity
  - Maximize the presence of living roots

- **Nutrient Management:**
  Growers implement the 4Rs of nutrient stewardship, verified via 4R certified ag advisors/applicators or through field printing, ag retailer record keeping and/or software programs. In the absence of 4R certification standards, progress should be tracked on nutrient practice adoption for water and air quality improvements.

- **Continuous Improvement (e.g. Water, Biodiversity, Economics):**
  The farm fields and crops show improvement over time in environmental outcomes as measured in the Fieldprint Platform or related programs. Focal areas should be region or site specific and based on company or farm commitments.

- **Native Vegetation:**
  Crops are grown on land that has not been cleared of native vegetation in the past 10 years.
In early stages, resources will be primarily devoted to building the infrastructure and capabilities required to understand supply chains, establish goals and establishing programs for engagement in/with the supply chain.

As the company moves toward implementing more of the principles, effort and resources will shift away from building capabilities and initiating engagement to sustained engagement and measured improvements.
## TNC Row Crop Principles Progression con't

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<tbody>
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<td><strong>Setting up Infrastructure</strong></td>
<td>Support training, education, and peer to peer learning</td>
<td>Initial investment</td>
<td>Continued engagement</td>
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<td>Support scientific research / innovation</td>
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<td>Support tool development (tracking and transparency)</td>
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<td>Recognize and promote leading producers</td>
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<td><strong>Progress on two principles</strong></td>
<td>E.g. Soil health implementation programs</td>
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<td>E.g. Implement 4 Rs certification</td>
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<td>E.g. Field to Market project/ programs for continuous improvement</td>
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<td><strong>Measured progress toward goals</strong></td>
<td>E.g. Measured environmental outcomes: SH, Nutrients, Water, Biodiversity, etc (see metric table)</td>
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### 2025 Interim Targets

1. # of companies set programs to build the infrastructure
2. # of acres of feed production transitioning toward TNC RCPs (2 out of 4 principles)

### Measurement

- **Infrastructure Levers**: $ invested to drive producer improvements
- **Soil Health**: # of acres impacted
- **Nutrient Mgmt**: # of acres impacted
- **Continuous Improvement**: # of producers impacted
- **Measured Reduction**: # See metrics slide

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*The Nature Conservancy*
Learn how
The Nature Conservancy can help your company meet its sustainability goals.

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