

Australia



- Facts:
- 768 million ha total
 - 427 million ha agricultural land
 - 274 million ha forest and protected land
 - 27 million citizens
 - 1,4 million dairy cows: 8,5 billion Liters of milk
 - 4500 dairy farms

Key topics around sustainable farming: Drought, Revenue model, Climate

Findings:

What is Biodiversity?

"Mix of different species in the environment, emphasizing its role in maintaining a healthy ecosystem"

"We ensure that the natural ecosystem can thrive while maintaining productive land use alongside it"

Is Biodiversity important?

"Biodiversity is becoming increasingly important, with initiatives like natural capital measurements and nature-positive reforms"

"Biodiversity is important for healthy soils, which benefits both the environment and the business."

"Establishing a baseline for biodiversity is important for measuring improvements and benefits"

"Biodiversity is essential for milk production and social license, ensuring that products come from sustainable practices"

"For the environmental benefits of biodiversity, such as reduced pest outbreaks, disease, carbon management, and wind erosion control"

"The need for nations to maintain natural environments and habitats to prevent species loss"

"Biodiversity involves maintaining both natural ecosystems and productivity, ensuring a balance between nature and farming"

How should Biodiversity must be rewarded?

"The value of biodiversity can be translated through the supply chain, potentially adding value to farms and being reflected in their balance sheets"

"Australia prefers a principles-based approach, emphasizing evidence and science over rigid rules"

"That farmers should be rewarded beyond financial means, such as through access to new government initiatives or social recognition"

What are the biggest challenges?

"in Australia, premiums may initially drive adoption, but eventually, sustainable practices become expected"

"The challenges of data collection in Australia at farmers level"

"That legislative and economic incentives could turn biodiversity maintenance from a liability into an asset for farmers"

"The challenges of navigating European deforestation terminology, particularly in tropical areas of Australia"

"The local perspective of managing woody weeds, which are seen as a weed management issue rather than deforestation"

Take aways/advise:

- It starts with data, start with a common data system owned by farmers (organisations), so farmers only have to fill in one data system for different purposes.
- Try to send one message: If society wants sustainable farming, we need reward sustainable farming! That's about money and recognising.
- Stop saying "We are not subsidised" money from government for rewarding biodiversity is not a subsidy. Farmers need money from society for sustainable farming, this can market or by government.
- A lot of farmers are already taking steps to restore biodiversity on their farms. Try to get this insightful and tell the story.
- Do not only look to restoring biodiversity but also reduce the negative impact by decreasing the emissions on water and air.

Interviewed people

David Jochinke, Federated Farmers

Australia

Su McCluskey special
representative Agriculture, Australia

Catherine Marriott, ESG policy,

Australian farmers

Several (Dairy) Farmers

Biodiversity Credits in Australia

Biodiversity credits are a market-based tool to offset biodiversity loss and promote ecosystem restoration. Landowners earn credits by protecting or restoring nature, while companies and governments buy them to reduce their environmental impact.

<https://www2.environment.nsw.gov.au/topics/animals-and-plants/biodiversity-offsets-scheme/about/how-scheme-works/biodiversity-credits>