



ROUND TABLE
ON RESPONSIBLE SOY

RTRS Benchmark vs Regen Ag practices

Performed by Peterson Consultancy



RTRS indicators on pesticide application

5.9 Appropriate measures are implemented to prevent the drift of agrochemicals to neighbouring areas.

5.9.1 There are documented procedures in place that specify good agricultural practices, including minimization of drift, in applying agrochemicals and these procedures are being implemented.

5.9.2 Records of weather conditions (wind speed and direction, temperature and relative humidity) during spraying operations are maintained.

5.9.3 Aerial application of pesticides is carried out in such a way that it does not have an impact on populated areas. All aerial application is preceded by advance notification to residents within 500m of the planned application.

5.9.4 There is no aerial application of pesticides in WHO Class Ia, Ib and II within 500m of populated areas or water bodies.

5.9.5 There is no application of pesticides within 30m of any populated areas or water bodies.



How RTRS includes some practices in its standard

5.3.2 Knowledge of techniques* to maintain soil quality (physical, chemical and biological) is demonstrated and these techniques are implemented. At least 20% of the productive area should be zero tillage. Producers unable to abide by this threshold will need to justify why.

5.3.4 A crop rotation plan shall be implemented to prevent soy from being planted immediately over soy and to promote a time gap on the same field. During this gap, a second crop or pasture should be cultivated or, at least, land shall be left fallow or under cover vegetation for regeneration purposes.

This plan shall consider adapting to specific climate and agro-ecological regional conditions.

5.4.2 There is an implemented plan that contains targets for reduction of potentially harmful phytosanitary products over time.

4.5.4 For farms that have less than 10% of native vegetation (but in compliance with 4.4 and 5.2 and other related indicators), producers are required to implement and promote conservation activities inside, outside or around the farm, to promote wildlife and the restoration of native vegetation.



RTRS & Regenerative agriculture practices

- RTRS was starting to perceive that the market was moving towards regenerative agriculture practices
- We started to explore the meaning of this and how it impacted our standard
- RTRS asked Peterson Consultancy to perform a benchmark to understand main gaps between RTRS and a standard only focused on Regen Agr



Methodology

NA Not Applied

0 Do not mention this practice

0.5 The standard mention the practice but does **not qualify**

1.0 The standard communicates its commitment in a **qualitative way**

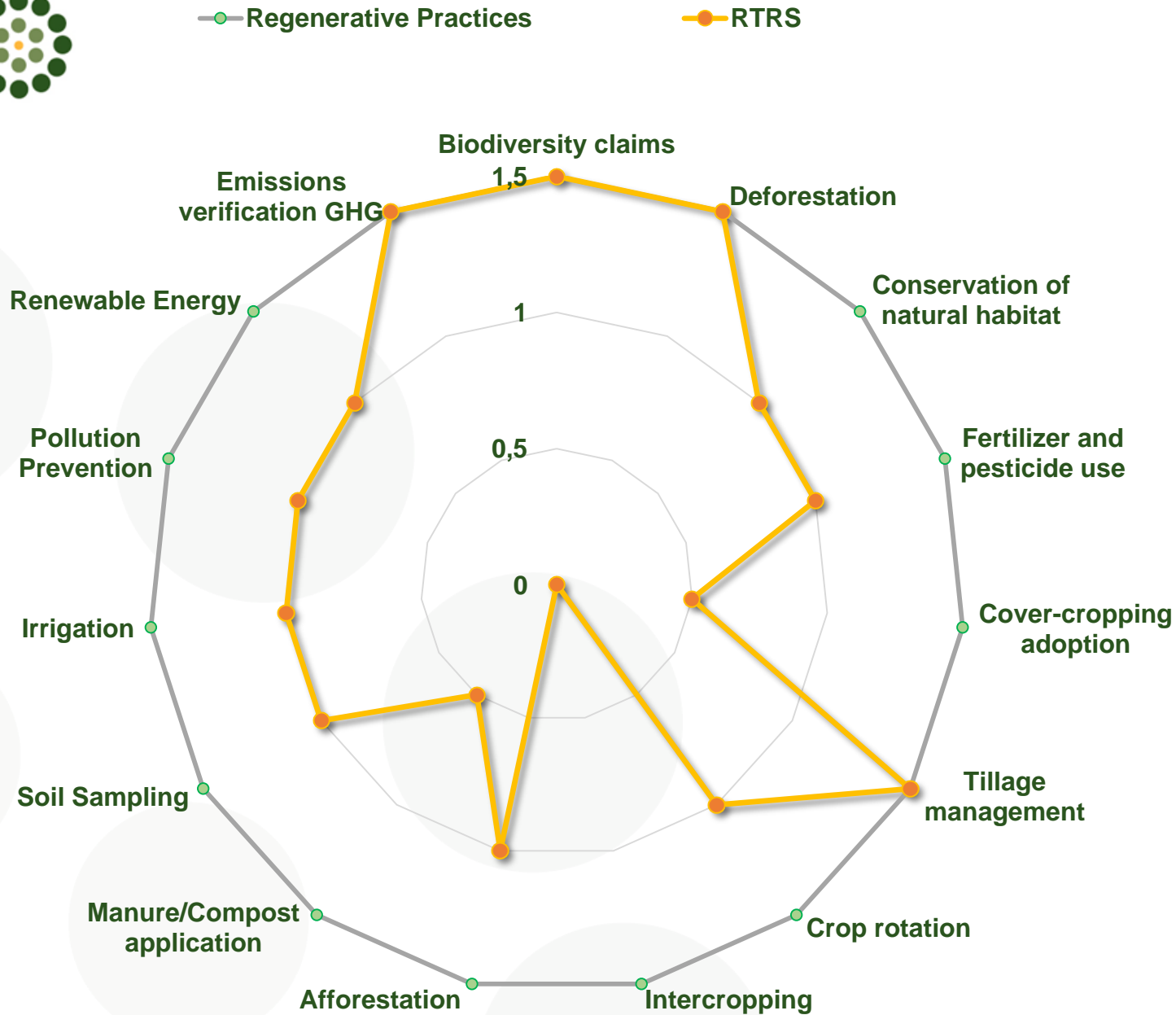
1.5 The standard communicates its commitment in a **quantitative way**

Highlighted indicators related to livestock (ICL) and Agroforestry, which **are not necessarily related to the activities of a soybean farmer**, would not be comparable.

Regenerative Agricultural Practices	RTRS
Biodiversity claims	1.5
Avoiding Deforestation	1.5
Conservation of natural habitat	1
Fertilizer and pesticide use	1
Cover-cropping adoption	0.5
Tillage management	1.5
Crop rotation	1
Afforestation	0.5
Manure/Compost application	0.5
Soil Sampling	1
Pollution Prevention	1
Renewable Energy	1
Emissions verification GHG	1.5
Intercropping	0
Irrigation	0.5
Total score	14/22,5
ICL – Integrated Crop-Livestock	N/A
Utilization of rainwater harvesting	N/A
Agroforestry & Perennial Cropping	N/A



Benchmark



Today RTRS includes a great amount of regenerative agricultural practices.

These practices on RTRS address both quantitative and qualitative assessments

Seeking continuous improvement in its own standard, RTRS is working to become more quantitative

There is a potential to make claims related to engagement with regenerative agriculture when using RTRS



How RTRS could be in a better position towards Regenerative Agriculture

RTRS could become more quantitative by:

- Setting minimum/maximum use or % of reduction of fertilizers, pesticides, biological control agents and manure
- Setting expected baselines for different practices already included in the standard (i.e. % of crop rotation; % of soil organic matter) as used in Tillage Management →
*Tillage Management: At least 20% of the productive area should be no-tillage.
Producers unable to abide by this threshold will need to justify why.*

Why is it important to have quantitative information?

- It is a way for the stakeholders to visualize the improvement in the regenerative topic; to encourage progress for the next goal.
- Even if the farm achieves all regenerative topics, it is necessary to adopt continuous improvement.

Thanks!



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