



2023 ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT



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Develop and offer healthy, reliable, high quality products from sustainable agriculture
50 % of supply by 2030

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growing our future responsibly

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30% less water in processes by 2030

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and reduction of environmental impact on the neighbourhood

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Improve biodiversity
on all company sites and land



“Since our 2022 editorial, our journey towards sustainability and environmental innovation has continued to make significant strides. Today, in 2024, I am proud to share with you the remarkable progress we have achieved in our commitment to the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Our business strategy focuses on both financial and non-financial targets. This ambition has not only been maintained but also strengthened by introducing our sustainability commitment at the core of our corporate governance. By valuing natural raw materials grown close to our production sites, we have managed to further reduce our carbon footprint. The optimized use of chicory roots and peas, which are our main raw materials, has proven to be a key asset for sustainable and resilient food production.

One of our most significant successes since 2022 has been the substantial reduction of our reliance on fossil fuels. Through our investments in renewable energies and our continuous commitment to energy efficiency, we have surpassed our initial goals, significantly cutting down our fossil fuel energy consumption.

Moreover, our ongoing efforts in research and development have led to innovations. We have developed new plant based PISANE™ pea protein ingredients, that not only improve the nutritional quality of food but also actively contribute to the dietary transition towards healthier, more environmentally friendly diets.

At COSUCRA, soil remains our foundation and greatest inspiration. We have intensified our efforts to preserve this essential resource. Our initiatives to reduce our environmental impact have been developed, and we are proud to be at the forefront of combating climate change.

Looking ahead, I am filled with optimism. With the ongoing support of our partners, clients, and our dedicated community, COSUCRA will continue to be a leader in providing natural ingredients that promote consumer health and preserve our planet. We embrace this challenge each day with passion and determination”

Eric Bosly, CEO

OUR COMMITMENT TO BCORP CERTIFICATION

At COSUCRA, our dedication to sustainability and environmental innovation extends beyond our products and processes. We also strive to be recognized for our social and environmental responsibility through BCorp certification. This prestigious certification is awarded to companies that meet the highest standards of social and environmental performance, transparency, and accountability.

BCorp certification is more than just a label; it represents our commitment to integrating responsible and sustainable business practices into every aspect of our company. By obtaining this certification, we demonstrate our dedication to:



Promoting Ethical Business Practices:

We are committed to treating our employees, partners, and customers with fairness and respect.



Reducing Our Environmental Impact:

We continuously improve our processes to minimize our ecological footprint.



Transparency and Accountability:

We pledge to be transparent in our practices and accountable to our stakeholders.



“The journey to BCorp certification is rigorous and demanding, but it aligns perfectly with our values and vision. We conducted a comprehensive assessment of our social and environmental impact, identifying areas where we excel and where we can improve. Based on this assessment, we have implemented initiatives to strengthen our sustainable practices, such as optimizing our supply chain and enhancing working conditions. BCorp certification is not an end goal but a continuous commitment.

We pledge to constantly re-evaluate and improve our practices to maintain and exceed BCorp standards. By pursuing BCorp certification, we reaffirm our commitment to being a leader in sustainability and social responsibility. We believe this journey will enhance our ability to create a lasting positive impact for our customers, employees, community, and planet.”

Alain Messens, Sustainability and Future Activities Director



7 COMMITMENTS

The 2030 Agenda adopted by the United Nations lists 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDG). Countries around the world have been invited to take up these goals and to plan their implementation.

To hope to achieve these objectives, companies must mobilize and change their practices through their CSR (Corporate Social Responsibility) strategies.

At COSUCRA, we are fully aware of this. This is why, beyond our ambition for food transition, we want to moderate our environmental impact. Although we are working on other areas for improvement, this document focuses solely on this topic. This is played out on several levels, from the field to the transformation of the two raw materials that we promote: chicory root and peas. We have made 7 commitments for 2030.

Each can be linked to one or more of the Sustainable Development Goals defined by the UN.

2

ZERO HUNGER

3

GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

Develop and offer healthy, reliable, high-quality products from sustainable agriculture (50% of supply by 2030)

#1

7

AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY

9

INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

13

CLIMATE ACTION

Reduce COSUCRA's carbon footprint by 50% by 2030 by improving process efficiency by 20% and limiting the use of fossil fuels to 50% of 2019 consumption

#2

6

CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION

12

RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION

Ensure a sustainable water management (30% less water in processes by 2030)

#3

4

QUALITY EDUCATION

8

DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

15

LIFE ON LAND

Contribute significantly to training in agricultural and food production technologies and techniques

#4

12

RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION

Ensure maximum recovery of by-products and reduction of environmental impact on the neighbourhood

#5

5

GENDER EQUALITY

8

DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

Develop a company where people can flourish

#6

15

LIFE ON LAND

Improve biodiversity on all company sites and land

#7

ISO 14001

➤ Enables us to structure the continuous improvement of our performance

➤ Helps prevent incidents and minimize the impact of site activity

➤ Empowers teams

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COMMITMENT #1

Develop and offer healthy, reliable, high quality products from sustainable agriculture. 50% of supply by 2030



At the heart of our mission is a commitment that shapes every aspect of our operations: "Develop and offer healthy, reliable, high-quality products from sustainable agriculture. 50% of supply by 2030."



This vision is not just a statement; it's a promise to our planet, our customers, and future generations. Our pledge is twofold. Firstly, to relentlessly pursue the development of products that not only nurture health but also embody reliability and superior quality. We understand that the well-being of our consumers is inextricably linked to the health of our planet. Therefore, each product in our range is a testament to this understanding, crafted to meet the highest standards of nutritional benefit and safety.



Secondly, we are dedicated to transform the landscape of agriculture. By 2030, our goal is to source 50% of our supplies from farming practices that are sustainable. This means going beyond sustaining resources to actively improving soil health, biodiversity, and ecosystem resilience. Our commitment extends to working closely with our farming partners, supporting them in adopting practices that align with our sustainability ethos.

Together, we are sowing the seeds of change, cultivating a legacy of health and sustainability for all.



SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE : GROWING OUR FUTURE RESPONSIBLY

This approach to farming delicately balances the nurturing of the earth with the needs of humanity, ensuring a healthier, more resilient world for future generations.

Imagine farming that acts as a caretaker of our natural resources, using water, soil, and energy not just judiciously, but with reverence and foresight. Such practices guarantee that these vital elements remain abundant and healthful, supporting life for years to come. In sustainable agriculture, soil is treated as a living, breathing entity. Here, the ground beneath our feet is enriched through natural fertilizers and gentle tilling methods, promoting vibrant ecosystems within the soil itself.

Together, we can cultivate a future that is bountiful, resilient, and harmonious, for our planet and for all who call it home.



LABEL FSA/SAI

The Sustainable Agriculture Initiative (SAI) Platform, a non-profit organization, was created in 2002 to facilitate the sharing of knowledge and best practices to support the development and implementation of sustainable agricultural practices.

SAI Platform develops the Farm Sustainability Assessment (FSA), a tool which enables food and drink businesses to assess, improve, and validate

on-farm sustainability in their supply chains. This assessment demonstrates sustainability in farming and is based on Good Agricultural Practices. This certification follows the three pillars of sustainability:

➤ People ➤ Planet ➤ Profit

It represents FSA-verified producers in more than 60 countries worldwide.



COMMITMENT #1

Develop and offer healthy, reliable, high quality products from sustainable agriculture. 50% of supply by 2030



► A LOCAL SUPPLY

We source our chicory from 320 loyal growers within a 52-kilometre radius. we reduce the distance between the fields and the plant by more than 10%. Three-quarters are located in Belgium and the final quarter in France.

We choose our partner growers. In particular, they must adhere to crop rotation practices and apply environmental best practices, which includes VEGAPLAN certification. This is a Belgian initiative, adopted by most producers, consisting of a guide to agricultural best practices that goes beyond European recommendations. 81 % of the suppliers have a certificate VEGAPLAN for 2023. VEGAPLAN meets the FSA/SAI label. It is the same proportion for the volume.

It includes:



Reinforced crop traceability with strict control of inputs.

If farms are not certified, we impose specific controls. In France, there is no similar standard. These are specific to each cooperative. Non-certified growers must complete an audit independently.



All farmers who supply us draw up a plot map.

This document ensures the traceability of its chicory production to our COSUCRA facilities. It contains the crop itinerary including tillage operations, seeds, phytosanitary products, harvesting equipment and water irrigation. Our teams monitor the work of farmers.

► LONG-TERM, COMMITTED PARTNERSHIPS

Contracts are renewed each year with growers wishing to continue cultivation, knowing that they all must practice rotation and must manage crop rotations with a long-term vision.

► PROCESS IMPROVEMENT THAT BENEFITS EVERYONE

We have invested in equipment to improve the efficiency of harvesting work at partner grower sites. The steps, which range from uprooting to delivery with defects, have been improved. We have financed preloading cleaning machines, such as scrapers. This made it possible to better manage the soil tare.



COMMITMENT #1

Develop and offer healthy, reliable, high quality products from sustainable agriculture. 50% of supply by 2030

► THE SOIL TARE HAS BEEN REDUCED FROM 20 TO 10% OVERALL SEVERAL YEARS

This refers to the earth that remains adhered to the roots after harvesting. Its proportion amounts to removing a fraction from the fields. Over the long-term, this affects soil composition. A higher soil tare also increases the volume to be transported and the requirement for washing at the factory. This earthy water must then be recycled.

75% of transport to the factory is by carriers. Work is facilitated by the provision of a mobile crane and a cleaning machine in the fields.

The agronomy team participates in the development of new technical itineraries to reduce the use of herbicides. Mechanical weed control solutions are also being studied.

► IN-DEPTH WORK TO DEVELOP OPTIMIZED VARIETIES

COSUCRA is the world leader in chicory seed for inulin extraction. This expertise is supported by our CHICOLINE™ business unit, which has been involved in selection since 1980. In terms of sustainable development, it aims, among other things, to:

- Provide innovative solutions to growers' expectations
- Develop seeds with an optimized inulin/hectare yield
- Be part of the scientific progress of cultivation through collaborations with various private and public research institutions



Creating new varieties takes into account various criteria relating to agricultural production, logistics and processing. We run selection and testing programs in France and Belgium. The varieties that we develop, through natural crosses, take into account the regions, soil type and, indirectly, climate change.



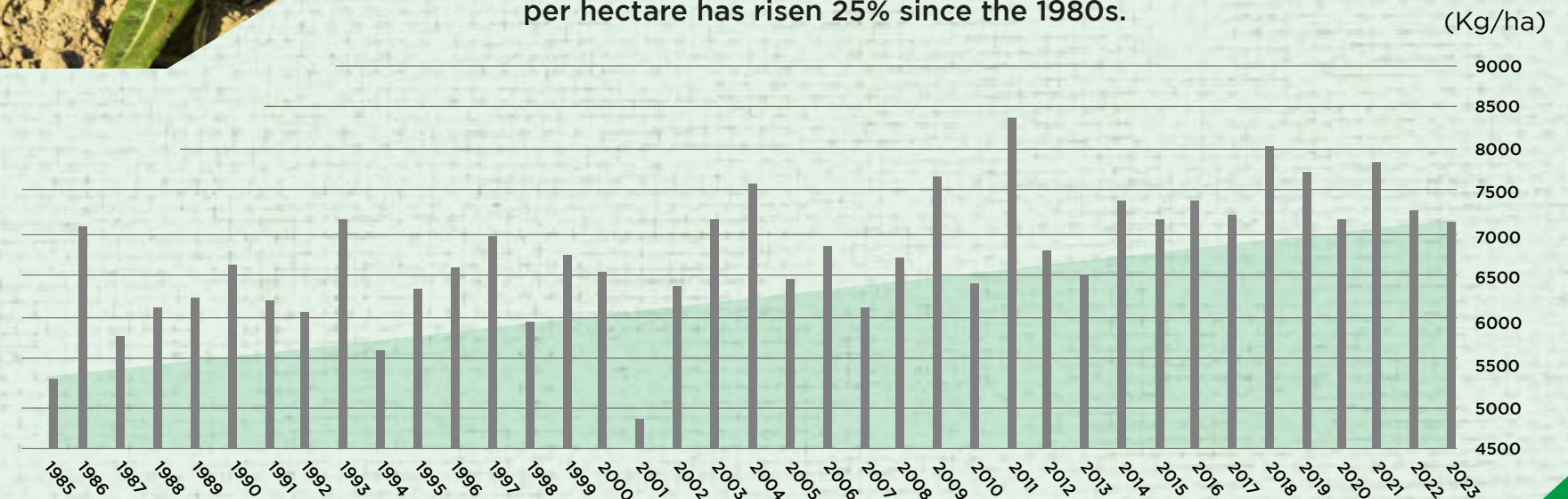
► TRANSPORT

The average supply radius for chicory is 52.7 km. The raw material is brought directly from the fields to the factory by tipper trucks.

Most of the peas come from agricultural cooperatives in northern France. This means that deliveries can be made by barge. In 2023, 79% of our deliveries were made by boat.

»»» Development of the inulin/ha yield

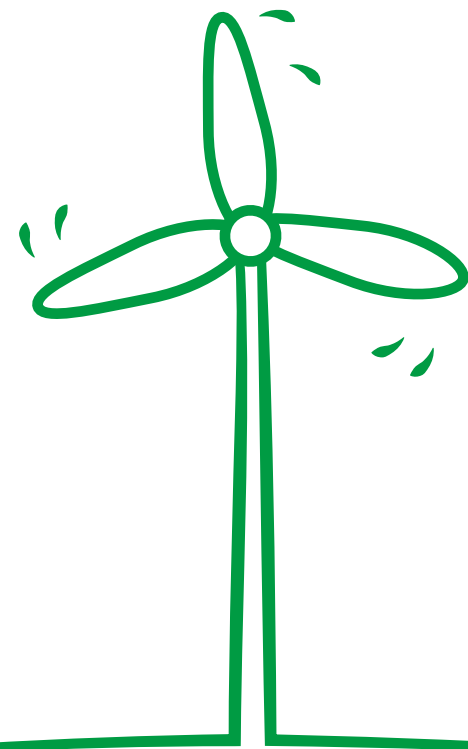
Thanks to COSUCRA's work, the yield of inulin per hectare has risen 25% since the 1980s.



COMMITMENT #2

Reduce COSUCRA'S carbon footprint by 50% by 2030

Energy transition is a key element of COSUCRA's 2030 strategy.
The energy transition is based on 3 pillars:



1

Electrification of production sites, i.e. replacing fossil fuels used to produce heat with electrified processes such as heat pumps and mechanical vapor recompression.

2

Utilization of our by-products in an on-site bio-methanisation process. The biogas produced will be fed directly into the sites' CHP (Combined Heat and Power) engines.

3

The addition of renewable energies such as wind turbines or photovoltaic panels covering impermeable surfaces.



MANAGING THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

We are committed to reduce our carbon footprint by 50% by 2030 compared to the 2019 reporting year.

We have carried out a carbon assessment to evaluate where our current strengths and areas for improvement are in terms of CO₂ emissions.

We have assessed our direct greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions (Scope 1) and those from indirect sources associated with energy (Scope 2). We have also studied the other most impacting indirect emissions (Scope 3).

For the 2023 reporting year, the total CO₂ emissions Scope 1 & 2 emitted amounted to 43,102 T CO₂-eq.

CO ₂ e Scope 1 & 2 (tonne)	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
CO ₂ e Scope 1	44,754	46,044	43,979	51,933	43,102
CO ₂ e Scope 2	4,323	4,346	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total	49,078	50,391	43,979	51,933	43,102

COMMITMENT #2

Reduce COSUCRA'S carbon footprint by 50% by 2030



DEVELOPING RENEWABLE ENERGIES

► COGENERATION

To limit our carbon footprint, we use several cogeneration installations to produce electricity, in addition to the heat required for our manufacturing process. In 2021, a new cogeneration unit was installed and a second underwent a major overhaul. Electricity production by cogeneration was thus increased from 26,334 MWh in 2019 to 29,961 MWh in 2023.

Electricity production by cogeneration (MWh)

2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
26,334	25,399	27,321	34,534	29,961



► WIND TURBINE

In 2020, COSUCRA and LUMINUS (Belgium's leading producer of hydro and wind power) erected a wind turbine with a power of 2,35 MW. In 2023, our electricity consumption from this source was 2,373 MWh, the rest of the production has been reintegrated into the grid. This is the equivalent consumption of around 1 977 Belgians.

Wind turbine consumption (MWh)

2020	2021	2022	2023
611	2,776	2,440	2,373

► SOLAR POWER

In 2023, our 760 solar panels provided 92 MWh of electricity, a huge decrease compared to previous years. This is due to the fire accident on our production site which had consequences for several months.

Production/consumption of PV electricity (MWh)

2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
224	229	214	227	92



► BIOGAS

Wastewater from our two production sites are processed by our onsite treatment facilities. The effluent first passes through anaerobic tanks where the absence of oxygen enables the methanisation process. This results in the production of biogas.

Biogas consumption (MWh)

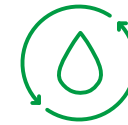
2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
13,463	13,451	13,636	12,751	13,309

COMMITMENT #3

Ensure a sustainable water management :
30% less water in processes by 2030



WATER A SUSTAINABLE RESOURCE



We have launched a partnership with SWDE (Société Wallonne des Eaux) to recover mine water from Tournaisis quarries and transport it to our production sites.



This recycles millions of m³ of groundwater discharged by the very active quarrying industry in the region into drinking water. We preserve the water table and this will also ensure that our monthly water consumption is better monitored.



We treat the water from the two plants on the Warcoing site, which handles 2,25 million m³.

The water discharged into the Scheldt adheres to strict quality standards. Our teams take daily samples to check the discharge.

A few awareness-raising actions have been put in place to reduce water consumption, but we are evaluating to set up structural projects to drastically reduce this consumption.

Total water consumption (m3)

2019	2.412.990
2020	2.888.747
2021	3.297.748
2022	3.382.022
2023	2.709.908



A new-generation wastewater treatment plant, HYBAS™, is currently under construction at COSUCRA. This fixed biofilm treatment plant aims to offer better purification performance for our industrial water than our current activated sludge basins. Commissioning is scheduled prior to end 2024.

COMMITMENT #5

Ensure maximum recovery of by-products and reduction of environmental impact on the neighbourhood

MINIMISING THE IMPACT ON THE SURROUNDING AREA



► NOISE MANAGEMENT

We care about the noise pollution we may cause. Equipment such as silencers and sound insulation for conveyor belts or roofs have been integrated into the pea factory in recent years. Nearly €300,000 was spent since 2019 to comply with noise standards. We monitor the noise level of our installations and stay in contact with neighbours in order to react as quickly as possible.



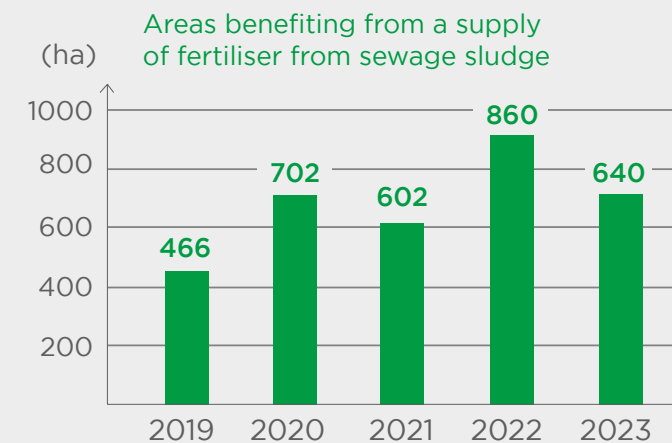
► MONITORING DUST EMISSIONS

We are continuing our efforts to reduce our accidental dust emissions. We continuously monitor our probes, which enables us to detect any problems with our installations.



► WASTE

We recycle most of our by-products as animal feed. Other production-related waste is sent to an external biomethanisation unit. The sewage sludge produced during wastewater treatment is used as fertilizer on fields within a 15km radius of our company. Around fifty farmers benefit from these contributions.



We reuse and recycle our packaging as much as possible. Our wooden pallets, for example, are taken back by our suppliers. Our used big bags are recovered to be transformed into raw materials, then into recycled big bags. Thanks to this enhanced sorting work, the quantity of residual waste was approximately 281 t in 2023, compared to 403 t in 2019. Anything that cannot be recycled or reused is disposed of in an incinerator.

Class 2 waste (tonne)

2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
403	302	251	300	281

COMMITMENT #7

Improve biodiversity on all company sites and land



In 2023, we planted 300 m of additional live hedge to welcome the insects and birds and offer them fruits as food.

The plants has been offered by the Walloon Region as part of their project “Yes We Plant”.

We are now studying the opportunity to carry out counts of different species which demonstrate the good evolution of biodiversity on our sites.



In addition, at the request of local residents, we have improved the view of our production site buildings by creating a slope of vegetated earth, which we have sown with flowering meadow seeds and melliferous shrubs at the top.

Combined with late mowing, this also enables us to develop biodiversity and provide food for foraging insects.



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