

Circular agriculture – an investment in our future

For Professional Investors only
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Agriculture sits at the heart of today's biggest challenges and greatest opportunities. It contributes to climate change and biodiversity loss, while also being highly vulnerable to their effects. From soil degradation and water scarcity to volatile yields and fractured supply chains, the risks are growing.

Positive long-run performance

Yet agriculture is uniquely positioned to be part of the solution. It's one of the few sectors that can regenerate the natural capital it relies on. But this requires a fundamental shift, not just in how we farm, but in how we think about farming.

At Van Lanschot Kempen, we see farmland as more than a productive asset. It's a living system. When managed wisely, it can deliver food, fibre, carbon storage, biodiversity, and climate resilience. In short, it can deliver returns that matter.

The circular shift

Circular agriculture is more than a label or a checklist. It is a systems approach that reimagines the farm as an ecosystem. One that cycles nutrients, generates energy and supports life above and below ground. It is about closing loops, going beyond checklists.

This is focused on forward progress. It is about moving forward with a deeper understanding of how ecological and economic systems interact. Regenerative farming is increasingly mainstream; it is a structural investment thesis. And increasingly, it is being recognised as such.

As we often say, we are investing in land as a dynamic system. We are investing in the flows that sustain it: carbon, water, biodiversity, energy. The farm becomes a system, part of a connected system.

From soil to strategy

Farms that regenerate soil, manage water and diversify crops are better able to withstand extreme weather and market shocks. By reducing dependence on synthetic inputs and fossil fuels, circular systems are less exposed to geopolitical disruptions. They also align with shifting expectations from retailers, regulators and consumers, who are demanding greater transparency, lower emissions and more sustainable sourcing.

And crucially, they open new markets. From carbon credits to biodiversity services, circular farms are positioned to benefit from emerging natural capital markets. This is a genuine commitment to sustainability. It is a structural investment in the resilience of the food system.

**The case for circular
agriculture is both
environmental
and strategic.**

Capital as a catalyst

Institutional capital has a unique role to play in this transition. With the right time horizon and strategic intent, it can help scale regenerative practices from niche to norm. That means backing operators who are willing to innovate, and providing the support to help them do so, financially, operationally, and ecologically.

Our approach is tailored to context. Circularity looks different in different contexts. What matters is the mindset: a commitment to closing loops, restoring ecosystems and building long-term viability.

There is no single solution. But there are many practical steps, such as cover cropping, reduced tillage and planting for biodiversity, that together build resilience from the ground up. It is about nurturing the soil, focused on nurturing the soil as well as growing the crop.

A living example

One of the clearest examples of this approach in action is a large-scale vegetable producer in Lincolnshire. This is a fully integrated operation farming over 27,000 acres, and it is built on circular principles.

Organic waste from vegetable processing is fed into anaerobic digesters, producing renewable energy and nutrient-rich digestate. That energy powers the packhouses and heats the buildings. The digestate is returned to the fields, closing the nutrient loop.

The farm has also invested in a fleet of biomethane-fuelled lorries and electric vehicles, reducing transport emissions by up to 90 percent. Meanwhile, precision fertiliser application and strip-till systems have cut nitrogen use by nearly a third and dramatically reduced soil disturbance.

Biodiversity is not an afterthought. Wildflower margins, hedgerows and pollinator habitats are woven into the landscape. The farm is even capturing and liquefying carbon dioxide for use in industry or long-term sequestration, turning a waste stream into a revenue stream.

This is about doing things differently: designing for resilience from the start.

Looking ahead

Agriculture is changing, and so is our role within it. We can either extract short-term gains or invest in long-term resilience. At Van Lanschot Kempen, we're investing in the future: one that is circular, regenerative, and resilient. And we're only getting started.

Contact us

To learn more about investing in regenerative farming please contact our team, details on the [contact page](#) on our website.

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The value of your investment may fluctuate, past performance is no guarantee for the future. Do not take unnecessary risks. Before you invest, it is important that you are aware of and are informed about the characteristics and risks of investing. This information can be found in the available documents of the strategy and/or in the agreements that are part of the service you choose or have chosen.



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