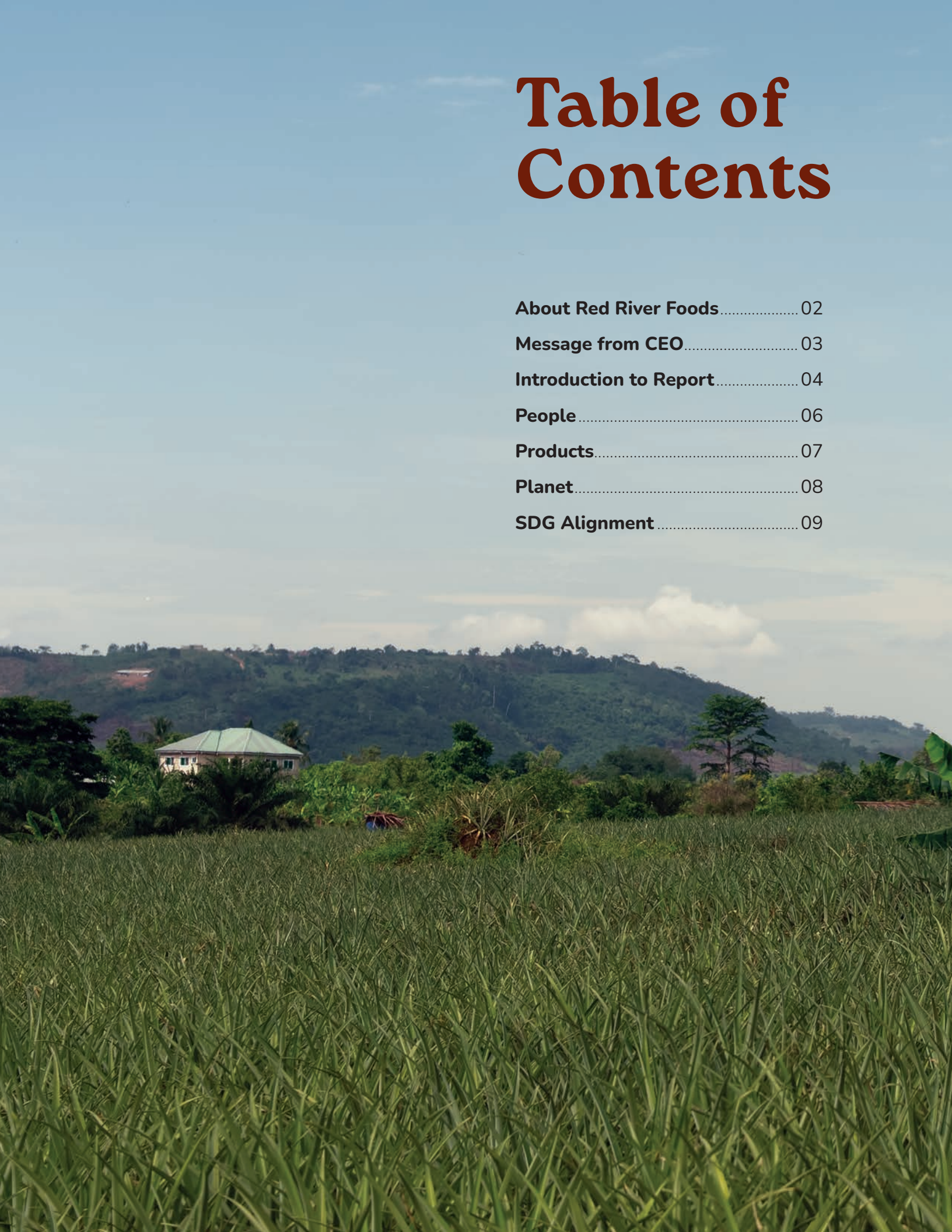




2025
**Sustainability
Report**

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About Red River Foods

Red River Foods is a leading global supplier of nuts, seeds, dried fruit, and specialty snacks. Every day we live our mission of sourcing the highest-quality foods, providing expert market insight, and developing sustainable supply chains around the world.



50+
products



40+
countries



40+
years in
business

Our mission

Is to source the highest-quality foods, provide expert market insights, and develop sustainable supply chains around the world.

Our vision

Is to be the premier supplier of sustainably sourced ingredients and foods. We're led by our commitment to doing right from people to products to the planet.

Our values

Are the foundation of how we do business every day. They're why customers trust us to provide high-quality ingredients and foods, and they are what set us apart to our partners and help us attract talent. These values represent who we are today as well as who we aspire to be.

Message from CEO

At Red River, sustainability is at the core of our business. As a global supplier of nuts, seeds, and dried fruits, we understand the critical role we play in not only delivering quality products but also in safeguarding the environment and supporting the communities we work with. Our commitment goes beyond meeting market demand; it extends to developing relationships with the farming communities who cultivate the food we source. We invest in sustainable farming practices, provide resources for livelihood improvement, and promote responsible land use to ensure that our value chains remain resilient and environmentally sound.

We believe that the future of agriculture depends on a balance between productivity and preservation. By fostering long-term partnerships with our growers and continually innovating in sustainable practices, we aim to create a positive impact that extends from the fields to the tables of consumers worldwide. Our goal is to build a more sustainable and equitable global food system, where every step of our supply chain contributes to the well-being of people and the planet.



Dan Phipps

Dan Phipps



Introduction to Report

At Red River Foods, sustainability is rooted in long-term partnerships with farmers, suppliers, and communities across our global sourcing network. As a vertically integrated trader of nuts, dried fruits, grains, and seeds, we recognize both the responsibility and opportunity that come with connecting agricultural producers to international markets.

Rather than operating sustainability as a standalone function, we integrate social and environmental considerations directly into procurement, operations, and long-term supplier relationships. The initiatives presented in this report represent collaborative work with farmers and local partners, grounded in the realities of rural production systems and informed by continuous learning.

This report covers activities through the 2025 calendar year and provides insight into both cumulative impact and ongoing program development.



Sustainability Framework

Red River Foods' sustainability framework provides a clear structure for how sustainability is understood, prioritized, and integrated across our global supply chains. It is designed to guide long-term decision-making rather than short-term actions, and to ensure consistency across regions, products, and partnerships.

The framework is organized around three interconnected pillars:



People



Products



Planet

Each pillar represents a core area of responsibility and focus. Together, they provide a comprehensive lens through which we assess risks, identify opportunities, and allocate resources to strengthen supply chains over the long term.

“ When we hear the word ‘Sustainability’ today, and we hear it very often, it’s difficult to pinpoint what it means specifically. Red River began investing in the development of supply chains, particularly at the farm level, over 15 years ago. ‘Sustainability’ was not yet a focus for the industry, let alone an everyday buzzword. We put these actions in place as we saw the need for more equitable supply chains, because we believed (and continue to believe) it is the right thing to do. I wanted us to be able to provide our stakeholders with a simple, easy-to-understand outline of what sustainability means to us and what we are doing to make the world around us a better place. We appreciate your taking the time to read through our framework and hope we can work together on the re-engineering of our global food supply systems for greater impact.

– Juliet Wiebe-King
VP of Sustainability & Business Development



People

The People pillar reflects our responsibility to the individuals and communities that underpin our supply chains. Farmers, workers, processors, and community members play a central role in producing the foods we source, and their well-being is fundamental to the long-term resilience of our business. Rather than focusing on short-term interventions, we prioritize long-term engagement that supports livelihoods, safe working conditions, and stronger communities.

Farmer Livelihoods

For farmers in our supply chains to prosper, we aim to support them through training, farm services, and additional revenue-generating projects. We focus on optimizing on-farm production to maximize yields and creating alternative forms of income, both on- and off-farm.

Safe & Decent Labor

Strong communities are essential to sustainable supply chains. Beyond individual farms, broader social and economic conditions influence farmers' ability to invest in their livelihoods and manage risk. Our emphasis is placed on inclusive participation, particularly for women, and on initiatives that are locally managed and owned.

Community Development

This focus area encompasses worker rights, health and safety, and ethical business practices. Expectations are communicated through supplier requirements and reinforced through engagement, monitoring, and participation in recognized audit and certification systems where applicable.





Products

The Products pillar focuses on how products are sourced and brought to market responsibly. Product sustainability is closely tied to transparency, ethical sourcing, and the strength of supplier relationships. Rather than viewing products solely as commodities, Red River Foods approaches sourcing as a set of long-term relationships that require mutual trust, clear expectations, and shared accountability.

Traceability

Traceability plays a critical role in transparency and risk management across supply chains. Our approach to it emphasizes practicality, accuracy, and continuous improvement, with an understanding that it is a foundational capability that can be strengthened over time. As regulatory and customer expectations evolve, traceability remains an important area of ongoing assessment and development.

Responsible Sourcing

Responsible sourcing is grounded in long-term partnerships, fair pricing, and clear social and environmental expectations. This focus area includes supplier engagement, contractual requirements, and participation in recognized certification schemes where appropriate. Together, these mechanisms help reinforce ethical practices, labor standards, and environmental responsibility throughout the supply chain.

Planet

The Planet pillar reflects our responsibility to minimize negative environmental impacts while supporting practices that protect and strengthen natural systems. Agriculture and food supply chains play a significant role in shaping environmental outcomes, and long-term sourcing depends on healthy ecosystems. Our environmental focus prioritizes approaches that contribute to resilience, conservation, and reduced environmental footprint over time.

Regeneration and Conservation

Regeneration and conservation efforts aim to protect ecosystems, support biodiversity, and promote responsible land stewardship in sourcing regions. Emphasis is placed on long-term outcomes, collaboration with local actors, and learning from implementation to improve future approaches.

Innovative and Green Practices

Reducing environmental impact requires continuous assessment, innovation, and data-driven decision-making. This focus area encompasses efforts to better understand and manage environmental footprints, including energy use and greenhouse gas emissions.



SDG Alignment

The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) provide a shared global framework for addressing some of the most pressing social, environmental, and economic challenges facing the world today. While Red River Foods does not pursue sustainability initiatives solely to meet external frameworks, the principles underlying the SDGs closely align with our long-standing approach to responsible sourcing and supply chain development.

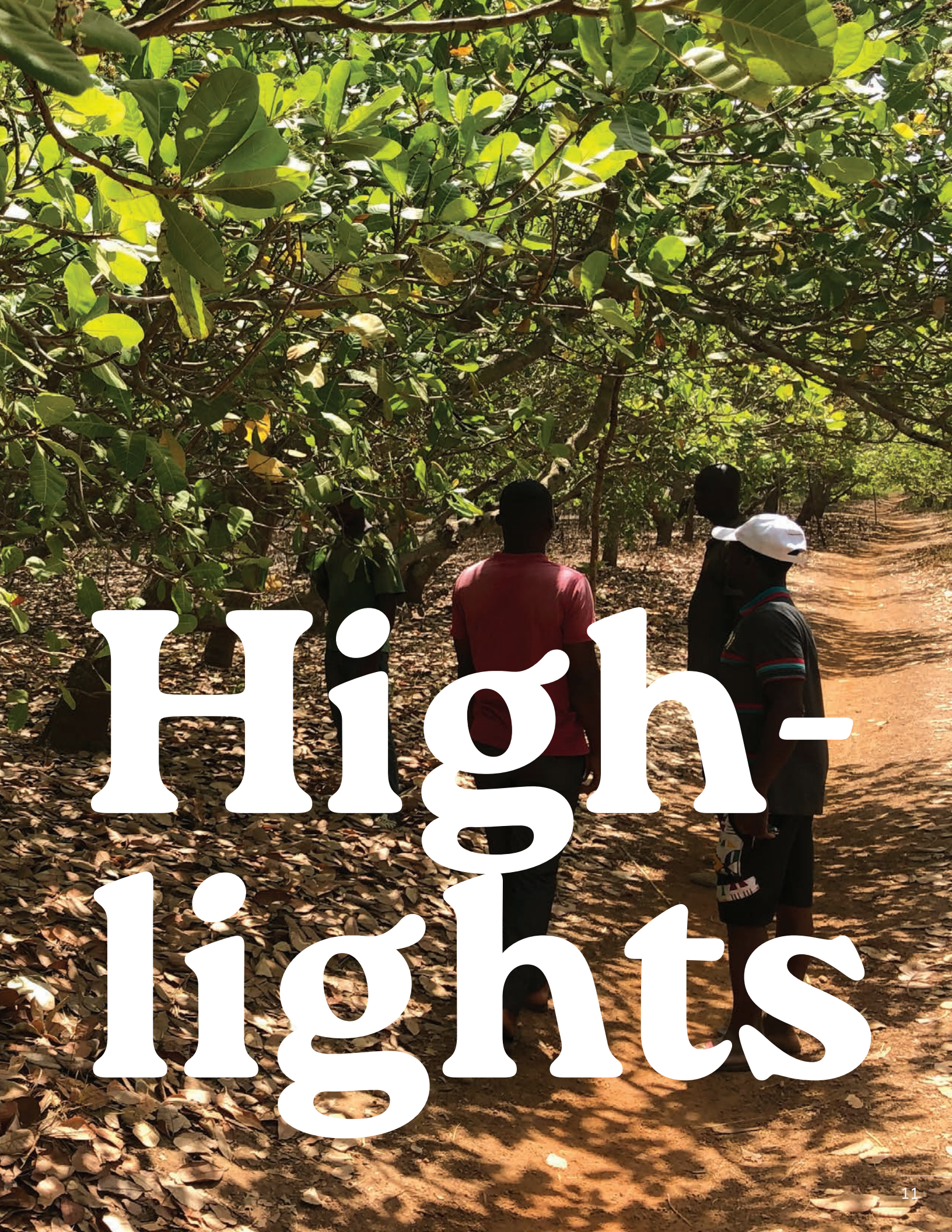
Through the priorities outlined in our sustainability framework, we contribute to several SDGs that are particularly relevant to agricultural supply chains, rural livelihoods, and environmental stewardship:





2025

Looking back at the past year, our sustainability program has continued to grow and evolve, much like our company. Here are the highlights from around the globe.



High- lights

Orchard Management: Pruning and Thinning

Pruning and thinning are core orchard management practices designed to improve tree health, productivity, and long-term resilience in cashew systems. In many producing regions, orchards are overcrowded or poorly structured, limiting airflow and light penetration while increasing vulnerability to pests, disease, and climate stress.

Through selective removal of excess trees and branches, farmers are able to restore orchard structures, improve flowering conditions, and support more consistent yields over time. Biomass generated through pruning is typically reused locally for household energy or soil improvement, reinforcing circular resource use at farm level.

Red River Foods implements pruning and thinning through a field-based model that combines farmer engagement, local leadership, and trained operators. Lead farmers support beneficiary identification, field demarcation, and supervision of activities, while chainsaw operators carry out technical work under close coordination with project staff.

Implementation approach

Activities are delivered within existing sourcing communities to ensure continuity of support and long-term adoption. Regular site visits reinforce quality control, while feedback from farmers informs ongoing refinement of program design.



Côte d'Ivoire

In Côte d'Ivoire, pruning and thinning were carried out across Raviart, Sakassou, and Béoumi, covering approximately 247 acres of cashew orchards and supporting 100 farmers across 15 villages.

Participation included 45 women and 55 men, reflecting efforts to promote inclusive access to orchard rehabilitation services.

Despite challenges related to difficult field access and unprepared plots in some locations, planned coverage targets were achieved. Additional measures were introduced to address post-pruning pest pressure, including the application of organic neem-based treatments, which were well received by participating farmers.



247
acres of cashew orchards

100
farms

Ghana

In Ghana, pruning and thinning activities were implemented across 23 sourcing communities in the Drobo and Techiman zones, supporting 159 farms and covering approximately 445.2 acres of cashew orchards. A total of 11,124 trees were pruned and 7,687 trees thinned.

Strong farmer engagement was observed, with many producers requesting repeat services following initial participation. Farmers also benefited from the reuse of pruned wood as household firewood, providing an additional short-term resource alongside longer-term orchard improvement.

445.2
acres of cashew orchards

159
farms

11,124
trees pruned

7,687
trees thinned

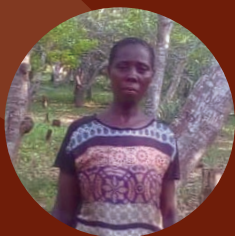


Outcomes and Lessons Learned

Across both countries, farmers reported visible improvements in orchard condition following pruning and thinning, including better aeration, stronger flowering, and healthier tree structure. Several participants from earlier cohorts cited production increases ranging from one to three additional sacks of cashew, contributing to growing interest in the program among neighboring producers.

Demand from newly identified villages continues to grow, showing the perceived value of orchard management support and the need for future program expansion. Key lessons from implementation, including earlier beneficiary selection, advance field preparation, and equipment renewal, are being incorporated to strengthen future campaigns.

Farmers say...



“This pruning and thinning activity helped increase my production volume and improved the quality of my cashew. The orchard is now in good condition.”

– Houphouët Aya Sylvie,
Raviart village



“My field is in good condition, and yields are improving each year. I thank Red River Foods for this project.”

– N'Guessan Koffi Léon,
Bendé Tanoukro

Beekeeping

Community forest initiatives support environmental stewardship while strengthening long-term resilience in sourcing regions. By restoring degraded land, increasing tree cover, and promoting collective management of natural resources, community forests contribute to biodiversity conservation, soil protection, and climate resilience while reinforcing local ownership of shared landscapes.

Red River Foods supports community forests as part of a broader agroecological approach that integrates environmental restoration with farmer livelihoods and community engagement.



Implementation approach

Red River Foods implements beekeeping through a phased, community-based model that combines technical training, equipment provision, and ongoing field mentorship.

Training focuses on practical apiary management, including hive installation, colony monitoring, safe harvesting practices, and basic honey handling. Rather than operating as isolated interventions, activities are embedded within existing sourcing communities to encourage continuity of support and peer learning.

Expansion prioritizes gradual onboarding of new participants while maintaining follow-up with earlier cohorts. More experienced beekeepers increasingly serve as informal mentors, supporting knowledge transfer and strengthening local capacity over time.

Ghana

In Ghana, beekeeping activities are integrated into established cashew-producing communities through long-term collaboration between farmers, the RRF Beekeeping team, and Blossoms Beekeeping Ghana.

Honey harvests were recorded in the Bonkwae and Agosa communities, involving 80 farmers managing 135 hives. Total net honey harvested amounted to 2,668 kilograms, equivalent to approximately 1,906 liters. Wax recovery totaled 82.6 kilograms.

Beekeeper participation spans multiple experience levels, including first-, second-, and third-year farmers, reflecting progressive skill development within the program. In parallel, 20 new beekeepers were trained, expanding participation while reinforcing continuity within existing networks.

135

hives

80

farms

120

beekeepers

516

liters of honey

1,906

liters of honey

82.6

kilograms of wax



Outcomes and Lessons Learned

All honey volumes reported above were harvested in early 2025 from earlier cohorts and do not include production from newly trained beekeepers, whose hives are still in establishment phases.

Across both countries, beekeeping has contributed to diversified income streams while strengthening farmer engagement with broader sustainability initiatives. The combination of practical training, continued follow-up, and peer learning has supported steady technical improvement and growing confidence among participants.

Key lessons from implementation include the importance of:

- Maintaining regular post-training field support
- Expanding gradually within existing communities
- Sequencing new beekeeper onboarding to align with available mentorship capacity

These elements continue to guide program design as beekeeping activities scale across sourcing regions.

Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLAs)

Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLAs) are community-managed financial groups that strengthen household resilience by providing access to savings and small loans in areas where formal banking services are limited. Through regular savings contributions, internal lending, and collective governance, VSLAs enable members, particularly women, to invest in livelihoods, education, and household needs while building financial literacy and social cohesion.

By embedding VSLAs within sourcing communities, Red River Foods supports inclusive economic development alongside agricultural programming, reinforcing long-term farmer engagement and community stability.

Implementation approach

Each VSLA operates on a defined savings cycle, typically spanning 52 weeks, after which accumulated funds are distributed to members through share-out events. Social funds are also maintained to support collective needs and emergencies.

Financial services are complemented by income diversification training, enabling participants to translate access to capital into sustainable micro-enterprises. As groups mature, they increasingly operate autonomously, with experienced members supporting newer groups through peer learning.



Ghana (Bono East Region)

In Ghana, the VSLA program operates across 20 groups with a total membership of 585 participants, approximately 71% of whom are women. Expansion has occurred through both strengthening existing groups and onboarding new communities, reinforcing continuity while extending access to financial services.

Collectively, members mobilized Ghana Cedis (GHS) 605,933 (approximately \$54,500) in savings and accessed GHS 326,610 (approximately \$29,400) in loans. Ten groups completed full 52-week savings cycles and distributed GHS 438,808 (approximately \$39,500) directly to members, with average payouts ranging from approximately \$110 to \$156 per participant.

The number of members accessing loans increased significantly as trust in the model grew. Income diversification training further strengthened resilience, supporting small enterprises in soap making and pastry production, primarily led by women.

585 members
71% women
\$54,500 mobilized in savings

Côte d'Ivoire (Sakassou Area)

In Côte d'Ivoire, VSLA activities operate across 10 groups comprising approximately 300 members, of whom roughly 76% are women.

Over a three-month period, members contributed 5,733,500 FCFA (approximately \$10,300) in savings. Three mature groups completed second-cycle share-outs totaling 7,818,000 FCFA (approximately \$14,100), while social funds of 456,000 FCFA (approximately \$820) supported collective investments.

Participation in VSLAs has led to the establishment or strengthening of at least 55 income-generating activities, including food processing, livestock rearing, retail businesses, and water distribution services. These provide tangible improvements to household income and local economic diversification.

Several groups have now completed multiple savings cycles and operate with increasing autonomy, reflecting growing financial confidence and governance capacity.

300 members
76% women
\$10,300 mobilized in savings

Outcomes and Lessons Learned

Across both countries, VSLAs have strengthened financial inclusion, increased women's economic participation, and enabled households to invest in productive activities and essential needs. Members consistently report improved ability to manage income fluctuations and respond to financial shocks.

Key lessons guiding ongoing implementation include:

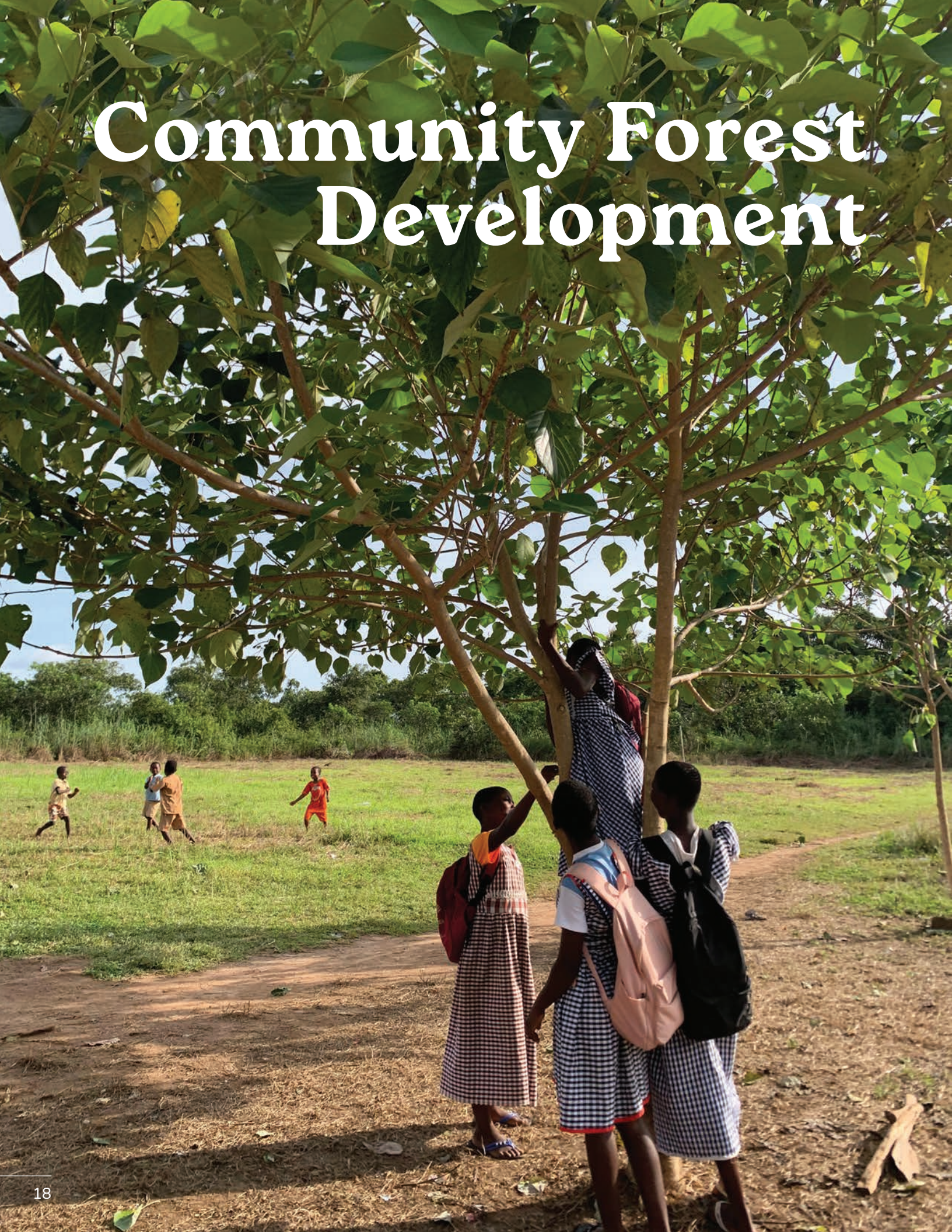
- The importance of strong early governance training to ensure group stability
- Pairing financial services with income diversification support
- Expanding gradually within existing communities to maintain quality facilitation and peer mentorship

By integrating savings, lending, and livelihood development, the VSLA program continues to reinforce community resilience while supporting Red River Foods' broader sustainability objectives across sourcing regions.

Pictured: Soap created by one of our VSLA groups.



Community Forest Development



Community forest initiatives support environmental stewardship while strengthening long-term resilience in sourcing regions. By restoring degraded land, increasing tree cover, and promoting collective management of natural resources, community forests contribute to biodiversity conservation, soil protection, and climate resilience while reinforcing local ownership of shared landscapes.

Red River Foods supports community forests as part of a broader agroecological approach that integrates environmental restoration with farmer livelihoods and community engagement.



Implementation approach

Village leaders and community members collectively identify suitable land, establish management committees, and participate directly in nursery production, planting, and site maintenance.

Species selection balances ecological value with livelihood relevance, incorporating both native trees and productive species. Banana plants are integrated into forest plots to provide short-term food benefits while incentivizing ongoing maintenance.

Activities are implemented in alignment with Côte d'Ivoire's national forestry framework, with an emphasis on community governance, erosion control, and restoration of degraded areas. Regular field follow-up supports survival monitoring and adaptive management.

Côte d'Ivoire

In the Sakassou area, approximately five hectares of new community forest were established across three villages, Ando Simbo, Ando Dougba, and Nianda, using more than 5,000 tree seedlings. Species planted include teak, framiré, albizia, gmelina, akpi, and avocado.

Each forest site was enriched with over 4,500 banana plants to support food production and encourage sustained community engagement.

Community-managed nurseries produced approximately 9,000 seedlings, supplying both forest plots and farmer distributions.

In Ayasakassou, an existing one-hectare community forest was rehabilitated following bushfire damage, with 440 replacement trees and 400 banana shoots replanted. Additional green spaces were maintained in Tayamoukro village and at Ayasakassou primary school, contributing to environmental education and community well-being.

5 hectares of new community forest established

9,000 seedling produced

5,000 tree seedlings planted

4,500 bananas planted



Outcomes and Lessons Learned

Community forest development has strengthened local stewardship of natural resources while contributing to ecosystem restoration and climate resilience. Communities reported improved awareness of tree management practices and increased engagement in collective environmental initiatives.

While implementation has faced challenges, these experiences have reinforced the importance of:

- Early community mobilization and clear governance structures
- Integrating food crops to incentivize forest care
- Maintaining regular follow-up to support seedling survival

By combining participatory planning with ecological restoration, the community forest program continues to build environmental awareness, strengthen community cohesion, and support long-term sustainability within sourcing regions.

Vietnam Flood Relief

In November 2025, severe rainfall across central Vietnam caused the Ha Thanh River to rise rapidly, flooding the city of Quy Nhon and surrounding regions. Thousands of residents were evacuated with little warning. Across the Central and Central Highlands areas, crops were destroyed, hundreds of thousands of homes were inundated, and communities were left assessing significant losses.

While the Red River Foods Vietnam factory was not directly flooded, many members of our Quy Nhon team suffered major personal losses. Homes and belongings were damaged, and a number of employees lost their motorbikes, their primary means of transportation for both commuting and daily family life. All employees were confirmed safe, but the need for immediate support was clear.

Since launching operations in 2022, the Quy Nhon team has been central to Red River Foods' Vietnamese cashew organic supply chain. Their dedication has made our work in Vietnam possible, and supporting them through this crisis was not a question. In response, Red River Foods launched a GoFundMe campaign to provide direct, immediate relief to affected employees and their families.

The campaign raised over \$3,200, with contributions coming from colleagues, partners, and supporters across the Red River Foods network. Funds went directly toward essential items for displaced employees, including clothing and blankets, food and daily necessities, diapers and household goods, and replacement motorbikes for those who lost their only means of getting around. We are proud of the generosity shown by everyone who gave, shared, and stood with our Vietnam team during a very difficult time.



Global Clean-Up Initiative

In 2025, Red River Foods launched a Global Clean-Up Initiative to engage teams across sourcing and operational regions in a shared effort to reduce environmental waste while strengthening internal collaboration and local community engagement.

The initiative reflects Red River Foods' core values of responsibility, partnership, and stewardship. By empowering employees to take action in the environments where they live and work, the program reinforces a collective commitment to environmental care while also fostering team building across offices, factories, and field locations.

Across participating countries, teams came together to clean surrounding public spaces, roadsides, and community areas near company operations. Beyond the immediate removal of waste, much of it single-use plastic, the initiative created opportunities for cross-team connection, hands-on environmental learning, and positive visibility within local communities. In Côte d'Ivoire, for example, neighbors expressed appreciation and engaged directly with staff, highlighting the social as well as environmental impact of the activity.



Global Clean-Up Participation Summary

Country	Location(s)	Participants	Quantity Collected (kg)
Vietnam	Long My Reservoir	19	20
Vietnam	Binh Duong	22	87
Côte d'Ivoire	Bouake	17	193
Turkey	Didim	45	65
Ghana	Drobo / Techiman	24	98
		127	463

Notes:

In Côte d'Ivoire, plastic drinking-water sachets represented approximately 60% of collected waste, underscoring the prevalence of single-use plastics in local environments

All collected materials were evacuated to authorized disposal sites or municipal waste services

Character Spotlight

My name is Nguyen Thanh Duy, and I have been working in the cashew sector for more than 12 years, including nearly 10 years with Red River Foods Vietnam. I was born and raised in the Central Highlands, close to farming communities, and this background has shaped my connection with farmers and agriculture. Since graduating, I have had the opportunity to work directly with farmers, cooperatives, and local partners in both Vietnam and Cambodia, especially in Gia Lai and Ratanakiri. Over the years, working alongside farmers and understanding their daily challenges has become not only my profession, but also something I feel personally committed to.

At Red River Foods, I started my journey by supporting the construction and development of our cashew processing facilities. Today, as Operations Manager – Central Viet Nam & Cambodia, my main responsibility is to ensure stable operations, product quality, and continuous improvement in production efficiency. At the same time, I am closely involved in our sustainability work in Cambodia. Together with my colleagues, we have worked directly with farmer groups and cooperatives in Ratanakiri to develop Organic cashew production, achieving Organic certification since 2018. Building on this foundation, we also supported the cooperatives in obtaining Fairtrade certification, helping farmers strengthen their organization and secure more stable market opportunities.

From my perspective, certifications such as Organic and Fairtrade create real value for farmers. Beyond better market access and premium prices, farmers improve their farming practices, protect their health and environment, and build stronger collaboration through cooperative structures. At the same time, the journey is not easy. Farmers often face challenges such as the organic transition period, higher labor requirements, strict documentation, and the need for continuous technical guidance. Long-term commitment from buyers, regular training, and close field support are essential to help farmers successfully achieve and maintain certification.

Looking ahead, I see strong opportunities to further deepen our sustainability impact. In addition to expanding Organic and Fairtrade areas, we are exploring the potential for Regenerative Organic Certification (ROC). This approach focuses on improving soil health, increasing biodiversity, strengthening climate resilience, and enhancing farmer well-being and social conditions. For smallholder cashew farmers, regenerative practices such as soil restoration, organic matter management, and diversified farming systems can improve long-term productivity while reducing environmental risks. By integrating regenerative principles, strengthening traceability, and continuing community development efforts, I believe we can build a more resilient supply chain that creates lasting value for farmers, the environment, and our partners.



Product Spotlight: Macambo

An Amazonian Tree Crop Supporting Forest-Based Livelihoods

Macambo (*Theobroma bicolor*) is an emerging specialty ingredient sourced from the Ecuadorian Amazon, where it has been cultivated and harvested by Indigenous communities for generations. Closely related to cacao, macambo produces large white seeds with a mild, nutty flavor and versatile culinary applications. Despite its deep roots in traditional food systems, macambo has remained largely unknown in international markets.

Red River Foods' engagement with macambo reflects a commitment to sourcing products that support biodiversity-rich landscapes while strengthening farmer livelihoods.

Forest-Based Production Systems

Macambo is grown within traditional Indigenous agroforestry systems known as chakras. These highly diverse forest farms maintain permanent tree cover and integrate food crops, timber species, and medicinal plants in a structure that closely resembles intact rainforest.

Rather than monoculture production, macambo trees are intercropped with dozens of other species, supporting soil health, biodiversity, and long-term ecosystem stability. Many trees currently harvested were planted decades ago, reflecting generational stewardship of forest landscapes.

Community and Livelihood Impact

Macambo sourcing provides income opportunities for Indigenous farming families, with approximately 90% of producers being women. Income generated from macambo sales is often reinvested in household needs such as education, health care, and food security.

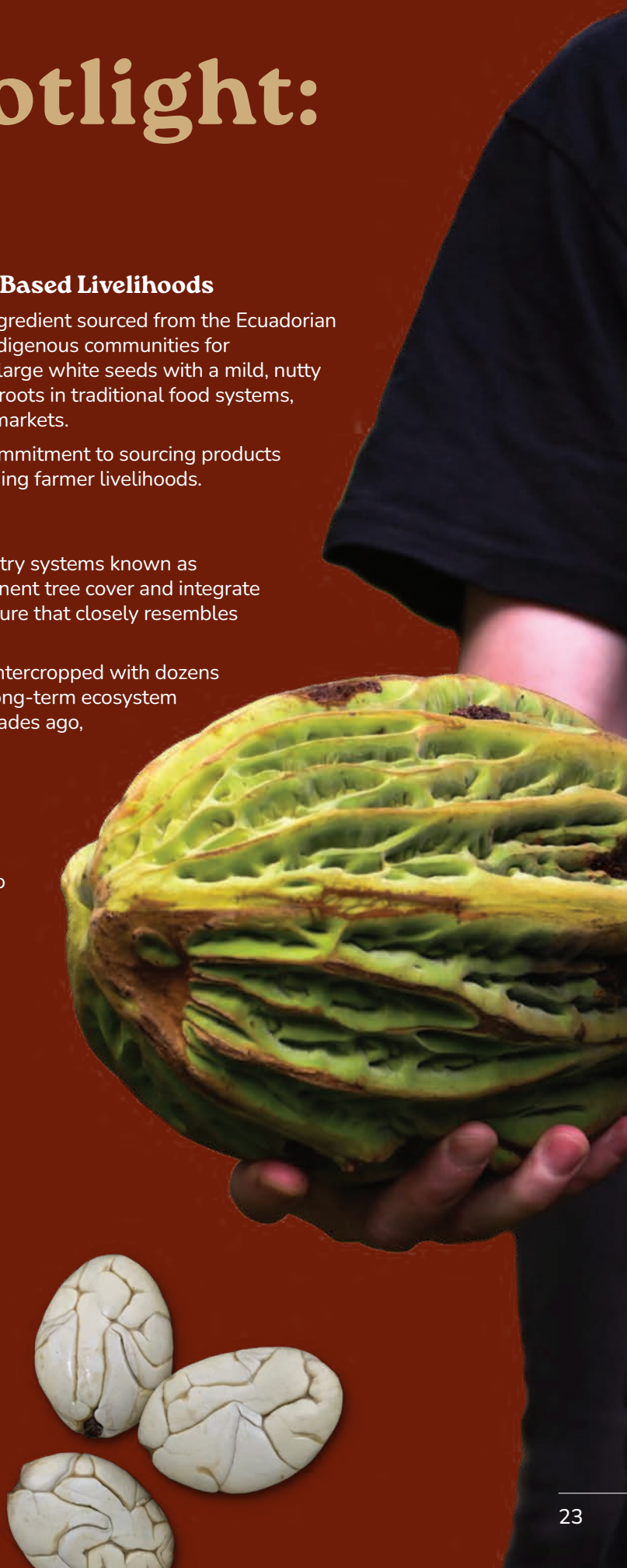
As commercial demand increases, farmers are revitalizing previously neglected macambo trees and planting new seedlings within existing forest systems.

Why Macambo Matters

Macambo aligns with Red River Foods' sustainability goals by supporting:

- Forest conservation through permanent agroforestry systems
- Women's economic participation and income diversification
- Preservation of traditional knowledge and food systems
- Climate resilience through low-input, tree-based production

By creating market value for a crop that thrives within intact forests, macambo demonstrates how responsible sourcing can support both environmental stewardship and resilient rural livelihoods.



Regenerative Organic and Fairtrade Certifications



SUPPORTING THE PLANET AND ITS PEOPLE THROUGH SUSTAINABLE SOURCING

At Red River Foods, our commitment to sustainability goes beyond the products we source—it’s about fostering a healthier planet and supporting the communities who grow our foods.

Two certifications that are central to this mission are **Regenerative Organic Certification** and **Fairtrade Certification**. Both play a vital role in ensuring our supply chain upholds the highest standards of environmental stewardship and social responsibility.

Regenerative Organic Certified® (ROC™)

What is Regenerative Organic Certification?

Regenerative Organic Certification (ROC) is considered one of the highest standards for organic agriculture in the world. It builds on the USDA Organic standards but goes further by focusing on three key pillars:

Soil Health & Land Management

Prioritizing farming practices that regenerate the land, such as cover cropping, crop rotation, and composting, which restore soil biodiversity and sequester carbon.

Animal Welfare

Ensuring humane treatment for animals when livestock is part of the farming system.

Social Fairness

Supporting the rights and well-being of farm workers and farming communities.

Red River Foods views ROC as an important framework for advancing regenerative agriculture within its supply chains, particularly where strong farmer organization and market access can support the successful adoption of these practices.

Our ROC products include:

Macadamias, Dried Mango, Dried Coconut Smiles, and Quinoa.



Coconut, Ghana

14

Farmers

579

Acres of ROC Land

Mango, Côte d'Ivoire

15

Farmers

1,196

Acres of ROC Land

Pineapple, Côte d'Ivoire

12

Farmers

44

Acres of ROC Land



What is the Fairtrade Certification?

Achieving the goal of sustainable livelihoods for farmers is a complex and dynamic challenge, especially within the Cashew industry. Fairtrade America is one of the key organizations driving this effort. Our Fairtrade certification means that we're partnering with the farmers and workers we source from towards fair prices and wages, safe working conditions, and thriving communities.

Our certified products have been audited against internationally respected Fairtrade Standards, which:

Foster economic sustainability

by establishing minimum prices and Fairtrade Premiums that farmers invest back into their businesses and communities.

Promote environmental protection

through sustainable farming methods that minimize harmful chemicals and protect biodiversity.

Support social equity

by upholding labor rights and prohibiting child or forced labor.

At Red River Foods, sourcing Fairtrade-certified products strengthens our partnerships with farming communities. We know that paying fairer prices and offering long-term commitments are critical ways we can support farmers' economic security and opportunities for growth.



Our Fairtrade products include:

Brazil Nuts, Cashews, Macadamia, Dried Mango, and Quinoa.



Looking Ahead

By integrating Regenerative Organic and Fairtrade practices into our supply chains, Red River Foods is contributing to a food system that nourishes people and the planet. These certifications are more than labels—they are commitments to sustainability, social justice, and long-term stewardship.

ROC Mango Production in Côte d'Ivoire

Red River Foods supports a Regenerative Organic Certified mango initiative in Côte d'Ivoire through its sourcing network. The project involves 15 farmers managing approximately 195.86 acres of mango orchards under ROC-aligned practices, with an estimated annual production volume of 120 metric tons.

Mango production under ROC emphasizes soil regeneration and ecological balance. Key practices implemented by participating farmers include:

- Maintaining vegetative soil cover through mulching with pruning residues
- Integrating livestock grazing (sheep and cattle) to improve nutrient cycling and soil structure
- Establishing living barriers and shelterbelts, including cashew trees, to reduce erosion and wind stress
- Using biological processes, such as termite activity and beneficial ant populations, to enhance soil fertility and natural pest control

These practices are particularly important in dry-season conditions, where maintaining ground cover and soil moisture presents ongoing challenges.



Outcomes and Lessons Learned

Farmers involved in the ROC mango initiative report positive economic outcomes, including higher and more stable incomes driven by premiums associated with regenerative practices and access to guaranteed markets at fair prices. At the same time, implementation requires strong cooperative management and sustained farmer engagement, particularly to ensure consistent adoption of soil cover and regeneration practices during periods of low rainfall.

With a breakeven volume of approximately 72 metric tons, the project demonstrates the importance of scale and coordination in making regenerative systems economically viable while maintaining high environmental standards.

Looking Ahead

The ROC mango initiative illustrates how regenerative agriculture can be implemented within commercial supply chains while delivering tangible benefits at farm level. By supporting practices that restore soils, enhance biodiversity, and improve farmer incomes, the project contributes to long-term resilience in mango production landscapes and aligns with Red River Foods' broader sustainability objectives.

ROC Quinoa in Bolivia

As a result of marketing regenerative organic royal quinoa in the US market, we continue to drive concrete and sustainable improvements for farming families in the southern highlands of Bolivia. Some of these advances are reflected in the testimony of our producers, Alodia Gutiérrez and Alicia Vélez, who share their experience:

“Being part of this Regenerative Agriculture program has meant an important change for our families and our fields.

In recent years, we have received support through the Fair Trade Fund. First, through the delivery of storage facilities that allowed us to better safeguard our production, and more recently through the construction of greenhouses for each of us. These greenhouses enable us to produce our own seedlings, both for the renewal of the multi-purpose barriers that protect our quinoa fields and for the generation of seedlings and seeds used in interplanting practices. We can now produce our own seeds and seedlings, which reduces costs and gives us greater independence. In addition, the greenhouse also provides us with the opportunity to grow food for our families’ own consumption.

Thanks to regenerative agriculture practices, we are already seeing tangible results. Our soils are healthier, and we have achieved approximately a 10% increase in our quinoa yields. This not only improves our income, but also motivates us to continue working sustainably for future generations.”



**10% increase
in our quinoa
yields**

Program Growth Targets and Current Status

Program Area	2025 Goal	2026 Goal	2027 Goal	Progress to Date (end of 2025)
Pruning and Thinning	200+ farms supported	200+ farms supported	200+ farms supported	259 farms supported in 2025 alone (159 Ghana, 100 Côte d'Ivoire), exceeding the 2025 target
Beekeeping – Active Farmers	250 beekeepers	350+ beekeepers	Establish honey import from farmers	266 beekeepers trained/equipped cumulatively, surpassing the 2025 target
VSLAs – Groups Established	30 groups	45 groups	60 groups	30 groups established cumulatively, with strong growth in Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire
Honey Production	Build production base	Increase volumes	Begin farmer honey imports	~5,673 liters harvested cumulatively, with systems in place to support future imports



Achievements by numbers 2018-2025



13,907

Farmers registered and trained

1,331

Farms pruned and thinned

266

Farmers equipped and trained on beekeeping

12,523

Pounds of honey harvested

1,250

Hives installed

6ha

Community forests established

78,900

Dollars saved by VSLAs

30

VSLAs established

6,740

Trees planted

35,984


Dollars taken out in loans






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