

Frequently Asked Questions

April 29, 2019

The Nature Conservancy (TNC) has teamed up with global agribusiness Syngenta in a multi-year collaboration to promote soil health, resource efficiency, and habitat protection in major agricultural regions worldwide. The agreement brings together Syngenta's research and development capabilities, alongside TNC's scientific and conservation expertise, to integrate conservation principles into business strategy.

This document provides responses to key questions about our collaboration.

1. WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO ACHIEVE?

The future of food will involve doing more with less. In many places, that means using fewer inputs, such as pesticides and fertilizers. This can deliver better outcomes for human health, sustainable development, and biodiversity.

According to the [UN FAO](#), about 1.5 billion hectares of land – or about 11 percent of the total land surface – is currently used for production of crops. Much of that land use is straining natural ecosystems through the over-use of pesticides, herbicides, and other chemical inputs designed to keep crops healthy and maximize productivity. Our goal is to develop solutions that enable productive agriculture to coexist alongside healthy ecosystems.

TNC is working to solve global problems, and we can't do this alone. To drive change at scale, we work with companies and other partners on lasting solutions that address the problems facing the majority of the world's farmers.

2. HOW DO YOU HOPE TO ACHIEVE IT?

Through our collaboration with Syngenta, we are contributing conservation science and practical insights to drive new innovation and technology that can benefit farmers and nature on a global scale.

Soil health, resource efficiency, and habitat protection are key to improving agricultural systems that benefit farmers, communities, and natural habitat.

Syngenta has expressed a willingness to re-evaluate its core business – from research and development, to how it supports farmers on the ground. This shift has the potential to move Syngenta – and the industry – toward a business model that better-incorporates conservation outcomes.

Investment in innovation and new technologies is key to advancing precision agriculture solutions, integrated pest management, biological solutions, remote sensing and analytics, and improved seed varieties, among other solutions.

At the same time, we are working together to improve resource efficiency, soil health, and habitat conservation with sustainability projects in key agricultural regions: Argentina, Brazil, China, Kenya and the United States.

3. WHAT MAKES THIS COLLABORATION EXCITING - AND CHALLENGING?

Few companies in the agricultural and food sector invest as much as Syngenta does in developing new technology. If some of this investment can be directed towards helping solve conservation challenges, it could have a huge impact. We believe the reward justifies the risk.

For a conservation organization to collaborate with a large agrochemical and seed company is controversial to some. It triggers passion from all sides of the debate on how food is grown and produced. We acknowledge and respect the spectrum of opinions and seek the best conservation outcomes.

We will stay true to our conservation goals and advocate for nature. This is outlined in our [Principles of Corporate Engagement](#). We will also engage independent experts and academics via independent funding, to evaluate whether or not our work is making an impact. Syngenta has also committed to independent auditing of progress against its own commitments.

4. HOW DOES THIS COLLABORATION SUPPORT TNC'S CONSERVATION GOALS?

At TNC, we are committed to creating a world where people and nature thrive. We have major conservation challenges, but we also have major opportunities – like improving our global food system. And we see a huge opportunity to innovate and invest in sustainable agriculture.

To reach our conservation goals at a global scale, we must work with partners, including the private sector. And companies often turn to us for our combination of conservation science and on-the-ground experience.

Where we find willing partners and big opportunities, we will work to leverage private sector investment and innovation for conservation.