

Nature impacts

Sourcing bio-based raw materials brings a responsibility to address the resulting impacts on nature, biodiversity and ecosystems. We are delivering on many nature-related targets, and working with the WBCSD Nature Preparer's Group to define future science-aligned targets for Croda and other organisations.

Reducing impacts of our bio-based raw material supply chains

We are a founder member of Action for Sustainable Derivatives (ASD), an industry consortium focused on transforming palm derivative supply chains through increasing transparency, monitoring risks, and generating on-the-ground impacts. Working with ASD in 2024, we saw continued high levels of transparency in our palm supply chains with 97.1% of our volumes mapped, of which 95.2% could be traced to refineries, 94.3% to the mills, and 55.5% to plantations. While we continue to use RSPO physically certified Mass Balance as our primary standard for palm-containing products, we are raising this standard through compliance to the EU Deforestation Regulations (EUDR) with a more robust approach to ensuring no deforestation, no human rights abuses and adherence to local laws.

Reducing our impacts in water-stressed regions

We have a particular responsibility to reduce the impacts on nature of our freshwater use at sites in or near water-stressed regions. Six of our manufacturing sites are located in such regions. Of these the top four sites by water withdrawal (in India, Brazil, France and Spain) have achieved our 2024 milestone of a 25% reduction in water use impact from a 2018 baseline. The remaining two, both in Murcia region, Spain, have not achieved this milestone, in part due to the maturity of water management in the Segura basin and resulting water stewardship practices already in place before our baseline year. However, their efforts in recent years have resulted in disconnecting future production volume growth from increased water withdrawal.

Land saved – our first quantified approximation for restoring nature

Our crop technologies and seed treatments help our customers' products improve crop yields, in turn reducing the land area required to grow each tonne of crop. We express this as land area saved and, in 2024, the total land area saved was 163,402 hectares¹, (2023: 183,123 hectares¹), 59,983 hectares above our 2019 baseline. This fell short of our 2024 milestone due to challenging agricultural market conditions in 2024. We were one of the first in our industry to attempt to quantify nature impacts of our technologies in this way. We recognise the need to mature these nature-based targets to become more specific and directly connected to helping contribute to a Nature Positive world.

Breakthrough innovations to lower the negative impacts of agriculture

New technology solutions are required to support the agricultural sector become more sustainable; regenerating nature and adapting to the changing climate. We have launched 9 out of the 20

breakthrough innovations targeted by our Agriculture business by 2030. These new technologies will help crops cope better with abiotic stress (non-living stress factors, such as drought, salinity, etc), allow farmers to effectively deploy lower impact biopesticides improve soil health, and support the commercialisation of new crops.

Supporting the launch of Nature Metrics by WBCSD













We participated in the WBCSD cross-sectoral SBTN Preparer Group that published an insights

report¹ to hold all companies accountable for their approach on nature, regardless of maturity. The report recognises that influence and accountability differ along the value chain, so targets need to be adapted accordingly. At Biodiversity COP16, WBCSD announced the launch of the Nature Metrics Portal Initiative to advance the harmonisation of nature-related metrics for companies along a value chain. Our active contribution to this initiative will help us define our future science-aligned targets and support other companies to maximise their contributions towards the global CBD Biodiversity Plan.



1. <https://www.wbcscd.org/resources/accelerating-corporate-ambition-and-preparedness-toward-science-based-targets-for-nature/>

Nature Impact

Objective	2030 Target	Progress	Milestones and metrics	Status	2024 Progress
Land Use We will save more land than we use. We will increase agricultural land use efficiency, protect biodiversity and improve food security by sourcing sustainably and inspiring innovation in our agrochemical businesses.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Throughout this decade, the land saved through the application of our crop protection and seed treatment technologies will exceed any increase in land used to grow our raw materials by at least a factor of two, and by 2030 we save a minimum 200,000 hectares per year more than in 2019 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> By the end of 2024, the land area saved through use of Croda technologies will be at least 80,000 hectares per year above a 2019 baseline. 		Land area saved by use of our technologies in 2024 was 163,402 hectares ^a of land, 59,983 hectares above 2019 baseline (103,419 hectares*). Cumulative land area saved between 2020 and 2024 versus 2019 baseline: 291,321 Ha, exceeding the cumulative target of 195,622 Ha. Land used to grow our crop based raw materials in 2024 was 74,377 Ha.
Crop Science Innovation We will invest in innovation projects and partnerships to support crop and seed enhancement in mitigating the impact of a changing climate and land degradation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Through to 2030 we will bring an average of two Crop technological breakthroughs to market each year that are in alignment with our SBTs and which help our customers mitigate the impact of climate change and land degradation By 2030, we will have established 3 new partnerships to contribute to the recovery of compromised farmland. We will work with customers, universities and business councils to achieve this 	 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> By the end of 2024, we will have brought 10 qualifying technological breakthroughs to market. 		We launched 9 out of 10 qualifying breakthrough technologies by the end of 2024. We remain on track to launch an innovative biodegradable dispersant early in 2025 which would represent our 10 th breakthrough.
Environmental Stewardship We will protect the natural environment through the responsible management of our water consumption and waste production.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduce our water use impact by 50% from our 2018 baseline 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop and implement a methodology for water impact assessment by the end of 2021 Reduce our water use impact by 25% from 2018 baseline by the end of 2024 Eliminate process waste to landfill across our operations by the end of 2024 	  	Water withdrawal in 2024 was 3,248 ML, ^a a decrease of 30% since 2018. Our top four sites in water-stressed basins (in Brazil, France, India and Spain) have achieved a reduction in water use impact over 25% from 2018 baseline. Two other small sites (in Spain) did not meet the milestone target (see p14). Our success criteria for Zero Process Waste to Landfill (see p14) was achieved with >99% of process waste diverted from landfill in 2024.
Product Stewardship We will take a leadership role in life cycle assessment of our ingredients and their impact on the life cycle of our customers' products. This will help the markets in which we operate move towards more circular economies and reduce consumer and employee exposure to chemical hazards.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Full life cycle assessments (LCAs) for our top 100 ingredients 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Finalise Croda's LCA methodology with external input and verification by the end of 2021 Complete 40 LCAs by the end of 2024 	 	4 additional cradle-to-grave (full) LCAs were completed in 2024, bringing our total to 11. Focus in 2024 was maintained on completing 'cradle-to-gate' LCAs requested by our customers, with 50 customer-focused LCAs completed in total.

Please refer to the Glossary on p23 for definitions of KPI terminology