

## Abstract

This study explores different aspects of regenerative agriculture (Regen Ag) in Uruguay and Switzerland, focusing on annual crops, vegetables and pastures. The growing global interest in Regen Ag, driven by the need for sustainable agricultural practices, serves as a context for this comparative analysis. The research addresses five key questions: the definition of "regenerative", the viability and integration of different crops and pastures in regenerative rotations, the feasibility and desirability of Regen Ag certification, possible environmental impacts of regenerative practices, and the comparative advantages of practice-oriented versus outcome-oriented approaches.

The experimental design included a scientific literature review and 13 semi-structured interviews with key actors in both countries including institutions, consultants, industries and rural producers.

The findings highlight a diversity of definitions for Regen Ag, influenced by personal and contextual interpretations. In Switzerland, there is more consensus among actors, while in Uruguay, there is a need for a more unified understanding. The integration of annual crops, vegetables and pastures into regenerative systems faces different challenges in each country, mainly due to differences in production scales and economic pressures. Certification of regenerative products is seen as an opportunity in Uruguay to access premium markets, while in Switzerland, stakeholders prefer process validation or verification. In both cases, although not by all actors, a higher level of standardization of Regen Ag is sought.

A critical aspect of Regen Ag is its focus on soil health, but the study emphasizes the importance of considering other environmental impacts, because of the holistic approach. The preference for outcome-based or a combination of practice-based and outcome-based approaches is evident among stakeholders, recognizing the need for clear guidelines and accurate impact assessment. Despite challenges in measurement costs and time, technological advances are expected to make these assessments more accessible.

The research, based on a limited number of in-depth interviews, provides a nuanced understanding of actors' perspectives, but highlights the need for future studies with larger samples for greater generalizability and representativeness. Overall, this comparative study between Uruguay and Switzerland provides valuable insight into the current state of Regen Ag implementation as well as future perspectives, emphasizing the importance of flexibility, holistic approaches and local adaptations for a successful transition to more sustainable agricultural systems.

Key words: Regenerative Agriculture, Sustainable Farming, Uruguay, Switzerland.