Soil Heroes

VP Capital Impact report 2022

July 2021 to December 2022

We dig your soil.

VP Capital is driving systemic change by enabling VP Landbouw to adopt regenerative agriculture. Together you are regenerating ecosystems, capturing carbon, and storing water; all through building soils.

VP Capital is:

- Taking positive climate action
- Contributing to a regenerative, healthy and sustainable food and farming system
- Partnering with farmers to regenerate supply chains
- Advocating for regenerative agriculture

Your impact in short: 2022

1 company and 1 farmer

100+ tons of CO2 sequestered in the soil

Almost 2 football fields of extra biodiversity areas

9 IBC containers of additional water holding capacity created

70+ hectares and 4 regenerative practices per plot

EUR 88,38 impact payment per hectare and EUR 6000+ per farmer impact payment

VP Capital

Company Details

Company	VP Capital
Founded	1951
Sector	Investment
Geography	NL
Headquarters	Goirle

Jobien Laurijssen, Sustainability Manager

VISION

At VP Capital, we commit our capital and network towards sustainable progress for generations to come. We do this because we see the need, feel the responsibility and believe in the opportunities of future proof thinking. We want to contribute to solutions that are needed both on a planetary and societal level. In doing so, we always look at both reducing the negative impact or effects with our businesses, investments, donations, innovations and increasing the positive impact of our portfolio. We remain down-to-earth but ambitious in this regard.

AMBITIONS & COMMITMENT

We are active and long-term investors. Our company is carbon neutral and we have committed to validated Science Based targets. We donate and are transparent about our Sustainable Progress. We engage with family offices on sustainable progress and make steps towards more transparency.

RELEVANT CERTIFICATIONS

Certified B Corporation — This company meets the highest standards of social and environmental impact

“Strong heritage. Sustainable progress.”

VP Capital

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Your impact

VP Capital

VP Landbouw

IMPACT EXPLAINED

CARBON

When regenerative farming practices are applied, carbon is sequestered in the soil (this is expressed in tons of CO2 per hectare, per year). Cover cropping will lead to the additional build-up of biomass and as a result carbon is bound by the soil. Minimum or no tilling will keep the carbon that has been built up stored in the soil.

BIODIVERSITY

Wildflower lanes and cover crops provide habitat and food for bees and other beneficial insects. Their presence is useful for pollination, controlling pests and creating/ sustaining a healthy ecosystem. Building below surface biodiversity is important for the health of soil. Soil biology like worms and fungi are an essential part of the soil cycle.

WATER

Farmland can hold water similarly to a sponge. The capacity to do so is related to the structure of soil and the amount of living plants. Roots, organic matter and soil biology hold soil aggregates together and improve porosity. Preventing surface run-off and flooding is vital. Improving the land's water retention capacity is an important mitigator for extreme weather conditions.

NUTRITION

Regenerative farming practises increase the density of nutrients in the soil and enhances the absorption of nutrients by the crops. As soil biology recovers and develops, soil health improves, and plant growth is boosted. Therefore, the harvested produce will have a higher nutrient density, leading to better taste and healthier people.

VP Landbouw

Farm details

Farm	VP Landbouw
Key Crops	Sugar beet, potatoes, cereals and legumes
Location	Goirle
Total Area	400 Ha
In regenerative	70,3 Ha
Became regenerative	2022

Simon de Brouwer, Farm Manager

VISION

We aim to close the carbon and nutrient cycles, improving soil quality, biodiversity, water cycle and animal welfare without being dogmatic. We are doing this by adopting a systematic approach and using innovative measures that fit into our business operations. This involves looking at methods from precision, organic, circular and nature-inclusive forms of agriculture.

AMBITIONS & COMMITMENTS

While our company has already come a long way in terms of sustainability, we are determined to continue leading the way in this regard.

We have already carried out research into the impact and financial considerations of transitioning towards practising regenerative agriculture.

Over the coming years, we will continue to shape this strategy, along with its implementation. We are also continuing to take steps towards making our livestock activities more sustainable.

RELEVANT CERTIFICATIONS

“Strong heritage. Sustainable progress.”

PRACTICES EXPLAINED

NO / SHALLOW TILLAGE

No / shallow till keeps the soil structure intact and protects the soil by leaving crop residues on the surface, which slows down evaporation and increases irrigation efficiency. Leaving soil undisturbed protects organic carbon against release and supports organisms important for nutrient cycling and suppression of plant diseases.

COVER CROPS

Keeping soils with green cover after the harvest by sowing cover crops reduces water runoff, improves soil structure through rooting and provides additional carbon for sequestration as organic matter. They also enhance nutrient contents (for legumes that fix nitrogen from the air) and biodiversity and improve water holding capacity.

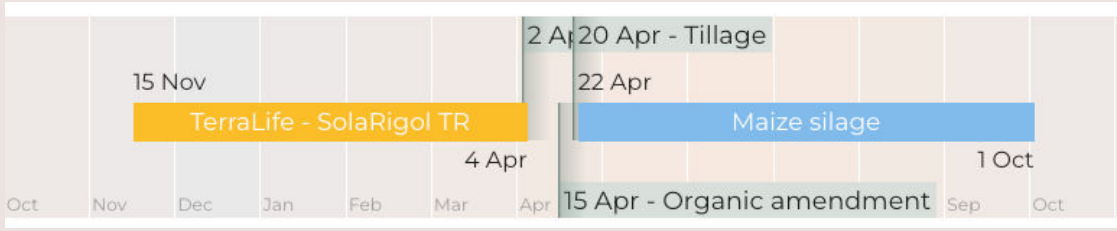
BIODIVERSITY EDGES / LANES

Supporting biodiversity by dedicating a lane of plants (mixes of flowers, herbs, grasses) for native bees and other beneficial insects and birds in a specific part of a plot. This is useful for pollination of crops, controlling pests through natural enemies, and creating and sustaining a healthy ecosystem.

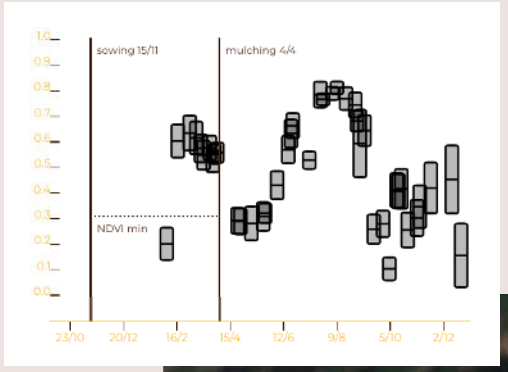
ORGANIC AMENDMENTS

Application of organic amendments serve primarily as a replacement for synthetic fertilizers and for improving the soil organic matter balance of the soil. Next to that, it can also improve water retention, increase soil resilience for pests and diseases, offer foraging opportunities for insects and birds and promote soil biodiversity.

Evidence collected



Example cycle of Horstakker cover crop validation



Sentinel-2 satellite check

Seed certificate

Photo evidence

PLOTS	SHI	Practices	Area (ha)	Biodiversity enlarged (ha)		Carbon sequestered (tons CO2)		Water Holding Capacity (liters)	
				Planned	Verified	Planned	Verified	Planned	Verified
	68	▪ no-till ▪ cover crops ▪ organic amendments ▪ biodiversity edges/lanes	14,02	0,25	0,25	6,81	42,29	-	28.040
	78	▪ no-till ▪ cover crops ▪ organic amendments ▪ biodiversity edges/lanes	6,50	0,07	0,07	11,89	11,44	-	-13.000
	71	▪ shallow till ▪ cover crops ▪ organic amendments ▪ biodiversity edges/lanes	12,38	0,08	0,08	22,73	20,45	-	-12.380
	91	▪ shallow till ▪ cover crops ▪ organic amendments ▪ biodiversity edges/lanes	11,02	0,21	0,21	1,68	1,68	-	-33.060
	82	▪ no-till ▪ cover crops ▪ organic amendments ▪ biodiversity edges/lanes	12,17	0,18	0,18	0,00	5,95	-	24.340
	80	▪ no-till ▪ cover crops ▪ organic amendments ▪ biodiversity edges/lanes	7,50	0,12	0,12	5,14	8,83	-	15.000
	64	▪ shallow till ▪ cover crops ▪ organic amendments	6,71	0,00	0,00	12,40	11,15	-	0
TOTALS			**70,3**	**0,91**	**0,91**	**60,65**	**101,79**	**-**	**8.940**

Soil Heroes

“Once in a while we need a doctor, a lawyer, a policeman, a preacher. But every day, three times a day we need a farmer”.

Brenda Schoepp