# IMPACT REPORT 2023 TO A FLAVOURFUL FUTURE

# FOREWORD FROM OUR CEO

In a world and time in which leadership embracing our generation's responsibilities towards our planet and its populations can never be enough, it is more important than ever that companies think through their responsibilities deeper. Vivera strives to systematically and consequently pursue ways of working that contribute positively to our planet and the people and animals within. By offering plant-based alternatives to meat, we hope to help consumers to make it easier to make a difference. By making the ultimate efforts to create as tasty and nutritious products as possible and sell them throughout Europe at affordable prices, we hope to make the barriers for consumers to enter and stay in the habit of using our meat alternatives. This is the heart of our mission.

We are aware that we as a company need to make the right choices, look critically at how we operate and how we engage with all our stakeholders. We are proud to present our second sustainability report, which shows our progression on our 2030 targets and the challenges we are encountering on our journey. For many targets we have early evidence of improvement or have advanced planning and preparation of improvement. We are showing first improvements of GHG emission per kg of product and waste and water usage, but we will need to accelerate. For safety we are behind target and we have taken onboard external help to develop our safety culture. Regarding well-being of our employees, our first employee survey has given valuable feedback which effectively gives guidance towards continuous improvement.

Willem van Weede CEO Vivera



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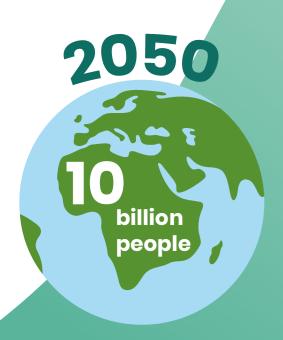


# HOW DO WE CREATE POSITIVE IMPACT

### **Greenhouse gases**

Food production leads to lots of CO<sub>2</sub>, and these emissions contribute to climate change. Animal-based food products are a major culprit in higher emissions. Plant-based foods are much more climate-friendly. Making 1 kg of beef burger causes 30.5 kg in CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. In contrast, producing 1 kg of vegetarian burger the way we make it here at Vivera releases about 2.5 kg of CO<sub>2</sub> (source: MDPI, see Appendix 4). Therefore, in 2019 we decided to divest our meat processing company Enkco. In doing so, we reduced our emissions and shifted our focus entirely to increasing our plant-based production.

If we all stopped eating meat, we could lower global CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by as much as 14.5% (source: DW, see Appendix 4).



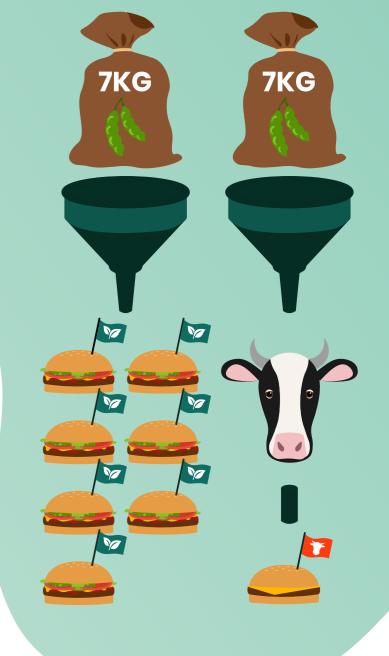


### Changing our eating habits

But greenhouse gases aren't the only problem. The world population is still growing, and will probably reach 10 billion people in 2050. One of the biggest challenges is feeding healthy food to all those people without damaging our planet even more. The EAT-Lancet Commission, consisting of 37 prominent scientists from all around the globe, has said that this will essentially only be possible if we change our eating habits. They proposed a 'planetary health diet', lower in animal proteins and higher in plant-based proteins. Eating foods that are better for the world and plant-based also offers health benefits. Plant-based products contain much less saturated fat, reducing the risk of cardiovascular disease (source: Netherlands Nutrition Centre, see Appendix 4). No need to worry about missing out on key nutrients, either. Our products contain lots of soya, which is rich in protein. We also supplement our products with Vitamin B12 and iron here at Vivera, because people who eat a completely plant-based diet may not get enough of those.

#### Land

Another advantage of plant-based food is that it takes far less land to grow crops. Producing 1 kg of meat takes 7 kg of soya – so it is much more efficient to put that soya straight into meat substitutes instead of feeding it to animals (source: Verduurzaming Nederland, see Appendix 4).





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#### Water

Another sustainability advantage of plant-based food: it takes much less water to produce. According to ProVeg, an organization that promotes more plant-based food, it takes 5 times more water to produce meat compared to our plant-based products (source: ProVeg, Appendix 4).

In other words, every piece of meat that you replace with a Vivera product has a direct climate benefit.



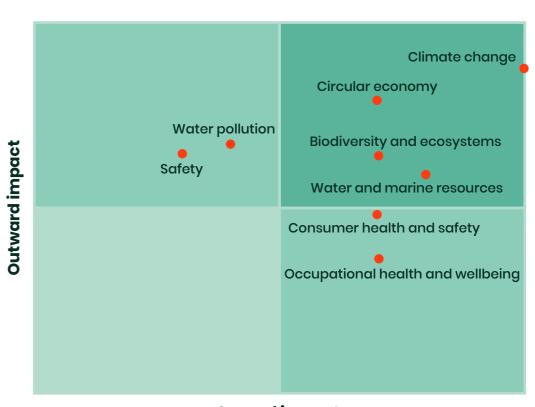
# HOW DO WE MONITOR OUR IMPACT

### **Engaging our stakeholders**

To maximize our sustainable impact, it is important for us to ensure that we engage our stakeholders in our sustainability strategy. Our stakeholders represent a very diverse group, ranging from our shareholders and employees, consumers and supply partners, to financiers and government authorities. We try to establish engagement through interviews, talks, surveys, and social media. They also have an important say in determining the topics covered in this impact report. Appendix 1 offers more background information on how this has been structured in our company.

### **Materiality Matrix**

It would be easy to assume that our stakeholders and Vivera as a company have differing goals and interests in terms of sustainability. Fortunately, our overall principles are very similar in many ways. This became apparent when we defined the 'double materiality matrix'. Two perspectives were considered: how we affect the outside world (outward impact) and how the outside world affects us (inward impact). We looked at this in terms of sustainability impact and financial materiality. We plotted the outward and inward impacts in the following materiality matrix. (See Appendix 2 for tables showing outward and inward impact.)



Inward impact





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# HOW DO WE MONITOR OUR IMPACT

### Which SDGs will we be working on?

Working from the materiality matrix we created based on input from a number of stakeholders, we identified nine topics that we collectively feel are the most important. Focusing on these topics, we formulated targets for 2030. For a number of targets, we chose a target per kg of product produced. Each and every plantbased product represents advantages for climate, land and water use compared to meat. That means it is important for us to increase our production so we can help more people switch to plant-based products. That's why we set targets that are designed to reduce our impact per kg of finished product.

### 1. Climate change

We are taking measures to reduce our carbon emissions and helping to work on **SDG 13 Climate Action.** 



We are taking measures to be more resource-efficient, contributing to SDG 12 Responsible Consumption and Production.



We will be using more organically grown ingredients, contributing to **SDG 15 Life on Land.** 

#### 4. Clean water

By increasing organic procurement, we are contributing to **SDG 6 Clean Water and Sanitation.** 

### 5. Water use

We are going to conserve water in our production, contributing to SDG 6 Clean Water and Sanitation and SDG 12 Responsible Consumption and Production.



### 6. Employee safety

We are taking measures to ensure the safety of our employees, contributing to **SDG 3 Good Health and Well-being.** 



The safety and healthiness of our products is a top priority. By providing healthy and food-safe products, we contribute to **SDG 3 Good Health and Well-being.** 



### 8. Health and wellbeing of our employees

We also set a target to improve the health and wellbeing of our employees, contributing to **SDG 3 Good Health and Well-being.** 



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### 9. Supporting community initiatives

We support civic organizations in line with **SDG 17 Partnerships for the Goals.** 



### Proud to be a B Corp

Since May 2023, we can proudly state that we have achieved B Corp certification. Organizations that achieve Benefit Corporation status have proven that they have a major positive impact on people, society and the environment.

There are over 9600 Certified B
Corps worldwide, 480 of which are in
the Netherlands (April 2025). Fully
in line with the principles of the B
Corp movement, we actively seek
collaboration with other companies
and institutions towards a sustainable
future. We regularly use the B Corp
Impact Assessment tool to assess
our impact and pursue ongoing
improvement.



### **Keep learning**

We have compiled this report conscientiously, to the best of our knowledge. We do not know everything, and are eager to learn. Questions or suggestions for improvement are welcome at **info@vivera.com**.

### **Certified**





### **BIODIVERSITY**

Organic ingredients

> 25% ingredients organically sourced

### **CLIMATE** CHANGE

CO<sub>2</sub> reduction in line with Paris Agreement

Scope 1, 2 & 3

Total CO<sub>2</sub> reduced by 45% per kg of sold product

# OUR GOALS **FOR 2030**

### **HEALTH & WELLBEING**

**Employees** 

Inspiration score 7,5

### **CLEAN WATER**

Organic ingredients

25% ingredients organically sourced

Water use reduced by 18% per kg of sold

### **WATER USE**

product

### WASTE REDUCTION

Waste reduction by 30% per kg of sold product

### **GOOD FOR** THE PLANET

GOOD **FOR OUR PEOPLE** 

### **SAFETY**

**Employees** 

LTIFR reduced to 1.7

### **GOOD FOR SOCIETY**

**SUPPORTING COMMUNITY INITIATIVES** 

> 5% of marketing budget

### HEALTH & **SAFETY**

Consumers

80% of sold products in NutriScore A or B

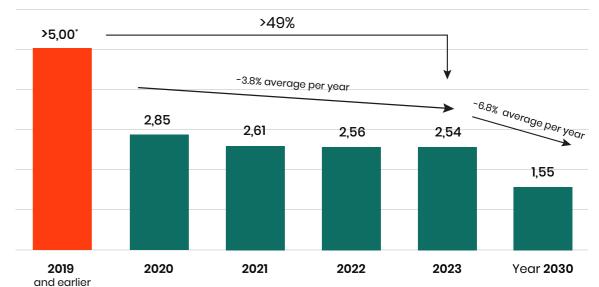


# GOOD FOR THE PLANET

### CO, reduction



### CO<sub>2</sub> per kg of sold product



\*no exact data available due to Enkco divestment

### Climate change and the Paris Agreement

Climate change is all around us. That is why it is incredibly important for all of us to take action now. We already started down that road in 2019 by divesting our meat-based activities. When consumers switch to plant-based products, this also leads to lower CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. Still, we also have to look at the CO<sub>2</sub> emissions generated by our own activities. Since 2021, we have divided these into three categories (or scopes).

7.0% of our 2023 emissions are in Scope 1: emissions from sources that we own or can control ourselves here at Vivera. Scope 2 is about energy procurement. In 2021, we switched to green electricity. As a result, our Scope 2 emissions are very low. Most of the emissions (about 95%) are in Scope 3: the emissions generated in the chain from raw material to finished product. Mapping our emissions not only helps us see where we are now, but - more importantly - enables us to identify the areas where we can achieve maximum savings. With that known we have defined our goals. Our climate change targets are in line with the Paris Agreement: we aim to reduce total CO. emissions in our Scope 1, 2 AND 3 by 45% in 2030. As stated previously, we want to see growth. Selling even more plantbased products is better for the world. However, more growth also means increased emissions, even though the

climate ultimately benefits every time a consumer replaces a piece of meat with a Vivera product. We will do everything we can to keep reducing our company's emissions. Rather than setting a target in absolute kg of CO<sub>2</sub> (in accordance with the Paris Agreement), we have opted for a relative percentage: 45% reduction in CO<sub>2</sub> per kg of product sold in 2030.

### How will we achieve this target?

We decided to focus on Scope I and Scope 3, because that's where we can make the most difference. Within that context, we will be focusing on three areas: ingredients, packaging and electrification.

### Ingredients

We have identified the five ingredients that have the biggest impact on our overall emissions and will be using smaller quantities (or replacing them with a more sustainable variety) – but without compromising on taste.

### CO2e per kg of sold product

Total	2.54
Scope 3:	2.36
Scope 2:	0.00
Scope 1:	0.18

### **Packaging**

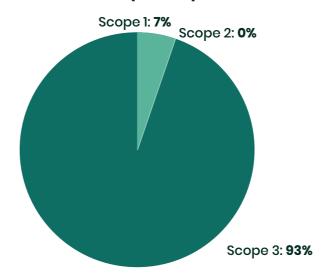
We aim to use even less plastic, leading to savings of 6% per year until 2030.

### **Electrification**

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We strive to save on our logistics (5% per year until 2030), use less gas overall, and find alternatives with the aim of discontinuing natural gas dependence altogether. All in all, these savings result in lower emissions per kg of product produced, reduced by 45% in 2030.

### Our emissions per scope 1, 2 & 3



### Our results in 2023

Since our base year 2020, we have decreased our CO<sub>2</sub> impact by 11% up to 2023. That is 3.8% average per year. We have realized this by switching to green electricity and reducing the use of plastic by using thinner trays. In 2023 we reduced the Nitrogen used for cooling from 9m kg to 2.4m kg. It is not a greenhouse gas, but cooled nitrogen has an energy component and CO<sub>2</sub> impact. We now use green electricity to cool. We have also updated historic data with more accurate emission factors. This update did not materially influence the results presented above.

To achieve our target in 2030 we will have to speed up reduction from 3.8% to 6.8% per year. To be honest: that is tough. But we have ideas and projects underway. We will do our very best to fulfill our targets. You can help too, by eating less meat!



# GOOD FOR THE PLANET

# Biodiversity & clean water





### **Biodiversity**

Climate change is not the only issue we care about when it comes to the liveability of our planet. We also set targets to improve biodiversity. Biodiversity is absolutely essential to life on Earth. Without that huge variety of plants, animals and micro-organisms, we cannot have healthy ecosystems. Biodiversity is what allows us to breathe healthy air and eat healthy food. Obviously, there are major ties between biodiversity and climate change. Climate resilience is much higher in a biodiverse natural environment. A UK-based think tank showed that a plant-based diet is vitally important in protecting biodiversity (source: Chatham House, see Appendix 4).

Our products help people make that transition to more plant-based protein sources. But it is also important to look at how our activities affect biodiversity. The ingredients used to make our products come from various plants grown for that purpose, and we want to minimize the negative impact from large-scale farming. Fertilizers and pesticides used in agriculture are reducing biodiversity (source: Chatham House, see Appendix 4).

### **Clean water**

Drinking water can be contaminated by the fertilizers and pesticides that are often used in agriculture. Organic farms do not use chemical pesticides or artificial fertilizers.

### **Our target**

Our goal is to have 25% of our ingredients organically sourced by 2030. The aim is for our products in the 'Quick, Healthy and Natural' group to be all-organic. That includes tofu, falafel and vegetable products. These products use ingredients that can be sourced organically, and they do not contain any ingredients that are banned by organic guidelines. For various reasons, it is more difficult to achieve fully organic sourcing for the products in the 'meat substitutes' category that resemble meat or fish - or at least not without making major concessions in terms of flavour and texture. For example, organic products can only contain flavourings that are derived from the original ingredient that the flavoring is named after. That means that developing a product that tastes like chicken would require us to use a flavouring derived from actual chicken. By definition, this would no longer be vegan, so we cannot use it. We will continue to seek solutions for products that conform to the standards for organic products while remaining fully vegan.

### How will we achieve this target?

We want to achieve organic sourcing of more ingredients. We will start by focusing on the vegetables and plantbased protein sources that we buy. Price will be an important consideration here, since we want to keep our products affordable. We will seek organic certification where possible.

### Our results in 2023

Many of our products contain soya, since soy protein is easily absorbed by the human body, and the whole soybean can be processed effectively. The soya we buy is not sourced from South America, due to the risk of deforestation in that region. The soya we use comes from Europe, North America and China. We do not buy any

genetically modified soya. GMO soya is often resistant to weed-killing chemicals, causing over-spraying and negatively affecting biodiversity. A significant and increasing percentage of the soybeans we buy come from Europe, and most of these are organically grown. In 2023, the amount of organic raw materials we bought remained equal at 11%.





# GOOD FOR THE PLANET

# Water use & waste reduction





### **Water use**

We are experiencing higher temperatures due to climate change, and the Netherlands is no exception. Rainfall has been significantly reduced in some years, both in our coastal country and farther inland, causing lower water levels in the major rivers flowing through the Netherlands. This leads to drought and water shortages (source: Rijkswaterstaat, the executive agency of the Ministry of Infrastructure and Water Management, see Appendix 4). To mitigate water scarcity, our goal is to use 18% less water per kg of product produced.

#### **Waste reduction**

Overall, 30% of food is wasted worldwide (source: FAO, see Appendix 4). Producing these food products requires vast amounts of raw materials. It takes up land and water and generates CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, and then ends up being discarded. Here at Vivera, we focus on recycling waste – and on reducing how much waste we generate. In turn, that saves energy. By 2030, we aim to produce 30% less waste annually per kg of product produced.

### How will we achieve these targets?

At Vivera, we use water to thoroughly clean our production facilities, as required by food safety standards. We also use a fair amount of water in cooling our production processes and products. We are exploring ways to reduce water use. We are also training our people to be more mindful of how they use water and to see where less water could be used in our day-to-day activities. Reducing waste is a high priority in our company. In a production environment, waste can occur due to transitions in production runs, or as a result of variations in actual versus expected demand. We have a KAIZEN (continuous improvement) program at Vivera, with waste reduction a high priority. KPIs have been defined, and we review the results on a daily and weekly basis to identify additional improvements. We will continue to work on improving our production standards in the coming years to generate even less waste. We will also work in multidisciplinary teams to see how we can reduce waste throughout the chain.

#### Our results in 2023

#### **Water use**

Water use in 2023 was 9.2 I per kg sold product an increase on the 8.3 I the year before. The increase of water use was caused by the additional cleaning necessary in the new production hall in Holten that was built in 2022. The increase was visible in 2022 and continues into 2023 especially in the beginning of the year. In order to bring this down we made several improvements. We have started to defrost with steam instead of water and our cleaning company has started to us different spray guns with different nozzles, achieving the same cleaning result with less water. Furthermore we engineered an investment which will reduce cooling water in one of our facilities which will be realized in 2024.

#### **Waste reduction**

In 2023 we have taken a deepdive into our waste streams and we have set up a goot monitoring system. Based on new insights we have adjusted our numbers over the past, because some waste streams were not accounted for. That is why the total numbers have increased vs the report in 2022. The good news is however that we have managed to decrease our waste over 2023. This is due to better separation of waste water and due to several KAIZEN projects in operations to reduce waste. We are glad that the additional focus on this topic is translating into good results.





# GOOD FOR OUR PEOPLE

# Employee safety & wellbeing



### **Employee safety**

The safety of our employees is our highest priority. Safety is a major focus in all our day-to-day activities and is discussed at all levels of the organization. Our ambition is to not fall short of the companies that are global leaders in safety. We measure safety based on Lost Time Injury Frequency Rate (LTIFR): the number of lost-time injuries occurring in a workplace per 1 million hours worked. Our aim is to get our LTIFR below 1.7 in 2030.

### How will we achieve this target?

We are well aware that safety is a wideranging concept, so our approach to safety encompasses various aspects. We are working to create a culture centered around team safety and accountability. We also take a good, hard look at the role of managers who need to serve as role models in this area and have significant



responsibility in creating a culture of safety at Vivera. We are also investing in systems and resources that promote safety. Besides conducting safety assessments and risk analyses, we are also drafting clear working instructions. In close collaboration with our external partner in health and safety, we are working on implementing ergonomic improvements and reducing work-related stress.

### Our results in 2023

Unfortunately, we did not have a successful year on the topic of safety. The LTIFR = lost time injuries frequency rate rose to 19.6 accidents per million hours worked in 2023 where the target for 2030 is 1.7.

The first peak of accidents was in the first quarter, where many people tripped on the stairs in and around the building. To address this a campaign was started, focusing on behaviour, explaining to people that safety is a matter for the employer AND employee. Clear rules were set for behaviour on the stairs and many inspections were carried out and employees were addressed and received feedback when they did not act according to the new rules. This first campaign had a great effect until after the summer holidays. Then after the summer holidays there was another peak in accidents because people did not fully follow standards in other various situations and working tasks. A new campaign focused on emotion was kicked off in canteen sessions.

This campaign was about reporting and addressing unsafe behavior of colleagues. The effect was immediately measurable and the level of incidents dropped to 0. We also worked together with our employment agency and created safety checklists provided to new employees in their onboarding and safety quizzes and puzzles which people receive from them around the holidays. The lesson of this year was that we need a culture change so we onboarded Safely, an external party which uses the the HBS method: Human Behavior Safety. This program will be rolled out in 2024.

### **Employee wellbeing**

We want our employees to be healthy, feel good and be engaged in their work. This overall concept is summarized as 'employee wellbeing'. We will be measuring this by conducting a survey of our employees. This employee survey measures various aspects of how people perceive their work and where there is room for improvement. The results will be summarized in an inspiration score. We are taking the Employee inspiration score as the overall metric. This metric encompasses whether people enjoy their work and get energy from their work, have a feeling of belonging at Vivera and are proud of Vivera.

### **Our results over 2023**

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In Q1 we did our first employee survey. All employees were asked to fill in an extensive survey to see how engaged they are and what improvements we could make. 69% of the employees completed the survey. This is slightly below the benchmark for similar companies: 72%. The overall inspiration score was 7.0 where the benchmark for Vivera and target is 7.5. The survey gave us great insights and a number of subprojects were launched in the areas of workplace, celebrating successes and communication around vision & strategy.

In the area of workplace all office employees have been given an adjustable desk so that they can sit and stand which is better for their well-being. In the area of celebrating successes, we organized a staff party which everyone had the opportunity to attend.

In the area of communication around vision and strategy, the Steering Committee decided to update the Manifesto, which is part of the onboarding for all employees. Furthermore the Steering team started to provide digital information sessions every four weeks that anyone can participate in. In these sessions, results and important organizational developments are shared. Next to that canteen sessions are organized three times a year for all employees.

Next to these overall initiatives all the teams received their team results with which they were able to initiate improvements in their teams. In 2024 we intend to repeat the survey and work on further improvements.

# GOOD FOR SOCIETY

# Consumer health & safety



### **Consumer health**

A plant-based diet can have various health benefits. It is high in unsaturated fats, cholesterol-free and contains less saturated fats than meat. A lifestyle with less meat and more wholegrain cereals, more vegetables, more fruits and nuts lowers the risk of cardiovascular disease (source: Netherlands Heart Foundation, see Appendix 4). If no one in the Netherlands changes how they eat, 1.9 million people will die from cardiovascular disease in 2030 (source: Netherlands Nutrition Centre, see Appendix 4).

Vivera aims to entice as many people as possible to more deliberately make healthier choices by offering a truly delicious alternative to meat. To make sure our products are nutritional, we aim for 80% of our range to have a NutriScore of A or B. How will we achieve this target? We will be working on our

recipes to improve our NutriScores.
Lowering salt levels has the biggest potential for achieving this goal. Salt adds a lot of flavour to our products; since great taste is the most important motivator for consumers to buy, we will reduce salt gradually, so consumers grow accustomed to less salty flavours over time.

#### Our results in 2023

In 2023 80% of our products are in Nutriscore A and B so we are in line with our targets. After a big project in 2022 to reduce salt levels we have continued to work on the nutritional profile of our products. The Dutch Voedingcentrum has published salt norms of 1.1 g per 100 g for plant-based meat alternatives which are stricter than the previous salt standard in the industry. That is why we have looked at ways to bring our salt levels step by step down from 1.53 g to 1.1 g per 100 g. This plan will be implemented as of 2024.









# Supporting community initiatives



### **Community initiatives**

Supplementing the impact we have on our direct consumers, we also want to make a positive contribution to society as a whole. We pursue this goal by supporting community initiatives at the international, national and local levels. Our target is to spend 5% of our annual marketing budget on this. How will we achieve this target? Every year, we will be looking for ways to cooperate with organizations that are a good fit for our company at the international, national and local levels. By engaging in these sustainable partnerships, we will be able to make a solid contribution.

### **Our results in 2023**

In 2023, we spent 5% of our marketing budget on socially engaging sponsorships. As a food producer, we are keenly aware that there are still between 720 and 811 million people still going hungry worldwide (UN, 2020). That's why we support The Hunger Project, an international organization fighting hunger worldwide. Vivera is specifically funding the Gewoha Forest Project in Jabi-Tehnan,

Ethiopia. The project aims to improve the local standard of living and increase food security and biodiversity, taking a stand against climate change. The goal is for the local community to become resilient and completely self-sufficient again within 10 years. In 2023, 900,000 seedlings were grown of 14 different types of trees. In addition 253,000 trees and edible plants were planted in the farmyards of 1,174 households to establish 'food forests'.

At the national level, we work with and support NGOs that are working on the protein transition, such as the Green Protein Alliance, the True Animal Protein Price Coalition and Proveg. We work closely with Proveg to support the Veggie Challenge. This app-based campaign challenges consumers to spend 30 days eating less meat or going completely vegetarian or vegan.

At the local level, we are the main sponsor of the Triathlon in Holten. This major sporting event relies on a thousand volunteers in Holten; as a Holten-based company, we are pleased to support the initiative. 2000 people competed in various triathlons, including a Europe Triathlon Premium Cup, a Europe Triathlon Junior Cup and various company-based triathlon events. A race (now renamed the Vivera Run) creates an opportunity for as many people as possible to challenge their personal athletic performance, bringing in 400 participants. We support the organization financially and by providing our products.











### Our goals for 2030 and our achievements over the past few years are neatly summarized below.

B-Corp	Topic	Where	e are we	at now	?	Target	Unit of measure	How will we achieve this?
		2020	2021	2022	2023	2030		
	1. Climate change 45% reduction of CO <sub>2</sub>	2,85	2,61	2,56	2,54	1,55	kg CO <sub>2</sub> /kg product	Different ingredients, less packaging, electrification
Good for the planet	<ul><li>2. Biodiversity</li><li>3. Clean water</li><li>4. Water use</li><li>5. Waste reduction</li></ul>	11% 11% 8,3 NA	9% 9% 8,1 2.002	11% 11% 8,3 1.996	11% 11% 9,2 1.834	25% 25% 6,5 1.160	% of kg purchased % of kg purchased ltr/kg Waste Tonnes	Using organically grown ingredients Using organically grown ingredients Continuous improvement program Continuous improvement program
Good for our people	6. Employee safety 7. Employee wellbeing	NA NA	10,5 NA	9,4 NA	19,6 7,0	1,7 7,5	LTIFR Inspiration score	Safety training Conduct employee survey and follow up on
Good for society	8. Consumer health and safety  9. Supporting community initiatives	NA	75% 5%	80% 5%	80% 5%	80% 5%	% of volume Nutriscore A/B % of marketing budget	Update recipes, lower salt content  Support local and international community initiatives



# How do we work on our impact?

### **Engaging our stakeholders**

To maximize our sustainable impact, it is important for us to ensure that we engage our stakeholders in our sustainability strategy. Our stakeholders represent a very diverse group, ranging from employees, consumers, supply partners and NGOs to financiers and government authorities. We try to engage all these people and organizations in all sorts of ways, including interviews, dialogues and surveys. They also have an important say in determining the topics covered in this annual sustainability report.

### **Sustainability Steering Committee**

How can we ensure that our ambitious plans will be carried out to the best of our ability? To ensure that sustainability is firmly anchored in our organization, we established the Sustainability Steering Committee in early 2023. Since it is important to us that sustainability is embraced and expressed throughout the company, the steering committee consists of six managers from six different departments.

### 1. Bertran Averink

Safety, Health, & Environment Manager

### 2. Boele de Jong

Chief Financial Officer

### 3. Jan Lederer

**Chief Operations Officer** 

### 4. Laura Moolenbeek

Human Resource Manager

### 5. Karin Löwik

Marketing Director

### 6. Willem van Weede

**Chief Executive Officer** 



















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# Materiality analysis of Inward Impacts

### **Engaging our stakeholders**

We started exploring our materiality matrix by identifying external influences that affect our organization. These influences are displayed in the inward impact analysis. We then looked at how our company affects our external surroundings. This is displayed in the outward impact analysis. We then combined the inward and outward impacts into the materiality matrix.

ID	Торіс	Sub-topic	Sub-sub- topic	Operational context relevant to the (sub-)sub-topic	Cause(s) of the negative financial impact / reason(s) it can continue to exist	Description of financial impact on the organisation	Affected resources (natural, social and economic)	Affected relationships
1	Environment	Climate change		The predecessor from which the brand Vivera evolved was a producer of meat products. Vivera now manufactures plantbased protein products.  Its manufacturing processes require a significant amount of energy, for example to freeze and heat products.  The production of agricultural raw materials is dependent on fertilizers and machinery which are a major source of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.	Continued reliance on fossil fuels, for example as power sources for machinery or other production activities; Continued investment in fossil fuel driven machinery moving towards the energy transition; Environmental effects of climate change, such as extreme weather and droughts, affecting farmland, and therefore impacting production volumes; Client expectations for product CO <sub>2</sub> performance; Reputational damage.	Investments in machinery and equipment running on renewable energy; Stranded assets; Increased procurement costs of agricultural ingredients; Reduced demand; Fines and lawsuits.	Energy, agricultural raw materials	Government, customers
2	Environment	Pollution	Water pollution	Vivera sources significant amounts of agricultural products. Agricultural production is often paired with use of pesticides and fertilisers.  Vivera uses large quantities of water for cleaning facilities and machinery.	Inadequate screening of suppliers, for example in the form of environmental impact assessments; Procurement of uncertified ingredients, meaning environmental risks are higher.	Reputational damage.		Customers
3	Environment	Water and marine resources		Vivera's manufacturing processes require significant amounts of water. The organization produces around 130,000 m² of wastewater annually. Upstream in the value chain, arable agriculture requires high-volume water use.	Current rates of water consumption may possibly not be able to be increased due to local regulations, although Vivera has the ambition to expand its operations in Holten; Increased drought in agricultural sourcing regions.	Investments in more water- efficient machinery and equipment; Missed revenue (opportunity costs); Higher procurement costs.	Agricultural raw materials, license to operate	Government, local community
4	Environment	Biodiversity and ecosystems		Vivera sources various agricultural raw materials, including soya, wheat, oils, herbs and spices. Agricultural production is often associated with (intensive) use of fertilizers and other agrochemicals.  Vivera uses natural gas combustion to generate heat.	A lack of transparency in value chains under increasing demand for responsibly sourced / certified ingredients and increasing attention from (civil) society for land-use changes in agricultural production that affect biodiversity.  Government authorities, such as the EU, are currently developing laws that actively forbid the sourcing of soya and oils. This is expected to require increased efforts from Vivera through processes such as due diligence to guarantee that products are free of deforestation.  Additionally this may result in a decrease in the available supply of these commodities and an increase in prices.  The emissions of nitrogen compounds by Vivera may potentially pose a constraint on the expansion of its own operations.	Decreased demand; Higher procurement costs; Missed revenue (opportunity costs); Reputational damage.	Agricultural raw materials	Customers
5	Environment	Resource use and circular economy		Vivera is a food manufacturer that is reliant on plastic and cardboard packaging for conservation and marketing purposes.  Additionally, as an industrial facility, it produces waste streams that require management.	Stricter legislation on the use of (non-recyclable and/or non-reusable) plastics and other packaging materials; Increased demand for products with circular packaging; Increased costs of raw materials (reinforced by laws and regulations).	Increased procurement costs; Decreased demand.	Packaging materials	Customers

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# Materiality analysis of Inward Impacts

ID	Topic	Sub-topic	Sub-sub- topic	Operational context relevant to the (sub-)sub-topic	Cause(s) of the negative financial impact / reason(s) it can continue to exist	Description of financial impact on the organisation	Affected resources (natural, social and economic)	Affected relationships
6	Social	Safety		Vivera is a food manufacturer employing around 500 workers. In addition, many external visitors and contractors visit their production premises. The production process involves working with heavy moving equipment, such as dough mixers, heavy objects which need to be moved around, and high temperatures such as frying oil.	Sick leave for employees unable to work due to workrelated injuries; Non-compliance with laws and regulations on workplace safety; Widespread attention (such as through media coverage) for severe incidents.	Fines and lawsuits; Wages of inactive workers; Reputational damage.	Labour	Government, employees
7	Social	Occupational health & wellbeing		Vivera's manufacturing processes include physical-intensive activities, at times in unnatural postures. In addition, food manufacturing and retailing is a fast-paced, dynamic industry which can be demanding to employees.  Moreover, Vivera works a lot with migrant workers (mainly from Eastern Europe). In the past, there have been several incidents concerning working and living conditions of migrant workers. Payment of decent/living wages can also be an issue.	Sick leave for employees unable to work due to work-related illness (physical/mental); Loss of human capital; Inadequate monitoring of and investment in decent working and living conditions for migrant workers.	Wages of inactive workers; Low performance due to insufficient access to quality workers; Increased HRM costs (recruitment costs) due to poor employer brand; Reputational damage because of migrant worker scandals.	Labour	Employees
8	Social	Human capital development		Vivera is a food manufacturer, however innovation (and development) of intellectual property, for example recipes or production processes of products, are crucial to the continuity of the organization.	Inadequate investments in employee education and training.	Low performance due to insufficient access to quality workers; Increased HRM costs (recruitment costs) due to poor employer brand.	Labour	Employees
9	Social	Diversity & inclusion		Vivera performs various business activities and therefore has a diverse staff, for example with regard to educational level and nationality.	Human rights violations; Unequal treatment of sub-groups within the organization.	Fines and lawsuits; Increased HRM costs (recruitment costs) due to poor employer brand; Reputational damage.	Labour	Government, employees, customers
10	Social	Consumer health & safety		Vivera produces food products that will be consumed after a period of logistics (storage, transport, retail) by consumers in various countries.	Recalls before distribution; Recalls after distribution; Health damage to consumers; Complaints and lawsuits claiming damages filed by consumers or consumer organizations.	Costs due to withdrawal of products and logistics associated with a recall; Reduced bargaining position due to deteriorated trust among retailers; Reputational damage; Claims and lawsuits by consumers.		Customers
11	Social	Community engagement		Vivera has several locations, with its largest production location in Holten, in the Dutch province of Overijssel. It is one of the larger and more well-known companies in the region.	Disturbance of surrounding community through landscape pollution (visual/noise/smell).	Reputational damage.	License to operate	
12	Governance	Corruption & bribery		Vivera has a wide range of suppliers and its value chains can be long and opaque, starting in non-Western countries where risks of bribery and corruption are higher. Moreover, the food industry has experienced corruption scandals in the past.	Lack of transparency leading to potential contribution to corruption and bribery via value chain.	Reduced access to financial services; Reputational damage.	Financial services	Financial service providers, customers

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# Materiality analysis of Outward Impacts

ID	Торіс	Sub-topic	Sub-sub- topic	Operational context relevant to the (sub-)sub-topic	Causes of the negative or positive impact / reasons it can continue to exist	Description of the impact on the environment, people and society	Source(s)
1	Environment	Climate change		The predecessor from which the brand Vivera evolved was a producer of meat products. Vivera now manufactures plantbased protein products. Its manufacturing processes require a significant amount of energy, for example to freeze and heat products. The production of agricultural raw materials is dependent on fertilizers and machinery which are major source of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.	Negative: Energy use by heating and cooling equipment on-site; Production of fertilizers and emission of N <sub>2</sub> O during application of fertilizers; Soya production is often associated with potential deforestation which accelerates climate change, especially when value chains are not transparent enough to rule out deforestation, such as through certification.  Positive: By changing its core business to products using plant-based proteins and raising awareness of the benefits of plant-based diets, Vivera contributes to the societal shift to diets with a lower CO <sub>2</sub> footprint.	Climate change, as a result of (excessive) GHG emissions, has worldwide consequences for environment, people and society. This includes extreme weather, pollution, and food and resource shortage. Given the current pace of climate change, remediability to levels below 1.5 degrees Celsius is considered unattainable.	4.3 Energy Use, Water Use, Other Emissions Interviews
2	Environment	Pollution	Water pollution	Vivera sources significant amounts of agricultural products. Agricultural production is often paired with use of pesticides and fertilisers.  Vivera uses large quantities of water for cleaning facilities and machinery.	Negative: Inappropriate and/or intensive use of fertilizers and pesticides resulting in leakage/contamination.  Positive: This water is treated up to standards required by the government using a chemical treatment plant. Cleaning agents are neutralized, and organic matter is removed and used as input for biogas production.	Contamination of rivers, lakes and estuaries resulting in environmental impact and posing health risks to the environment and local communities reliant on these local marine resources.	Interviews
3	Environment	Water and marine resources		Vivera's manufacturing processes require significant amounts of water. The organization produces around 130,000 m² of wastewater annually. Upstream in the value chain, arable agriculture requires high-volume water use.	Negative: Significant water use during manufacturing processes. Vivera Holten is located in a water-scarce region, so impact is limited.  Agricultural production, including irrigation, of (waterintensive) crops. Potentially, some percentage of the sourcing areas of Vivera's raw materials are water-scarce, thus increasing the impact.  Positive: By changing its core business to products using plant-based proteins and raising awareness of the benefits of plant-based diets, Vivera contributes to the societal shift to diets associated with lower water consumption, since livestock farming is associated with higher water consumption than arable farming/horticulture.	Depletion of natural water resources, potentially leading to increased local water stress.	4.3 Energy Use, Water Use, Other Emissions  earth.org/ soybeanproducts- and-itsenvironmental- impact  Interviews
4	Environment	Biodiversity and ecosystems		Vivera sources various agricultural raw materials, including soya, wheat, oils, herbs and spices. Agricultural production is often associated with (intensive) use of fertilizers and other agrochemicals.  Vivera uses natural gas combustion to generate heat.	Negative: Degrading agricultural practices such as monoculture; soya in particular is highly associated with deforestation and land degradation. For most origins, supply chains are not transparent enough to rule out potential deforestation.  Positive: Vivera does not procure soya from South America, and therefore does not contribute to the deforestation with which soya from this continent is heavily associated.	Transformation of natural vegetation or grazing lands to crops, also referred to as land-use change, is likely to increase soil erosion, and thus lead to land degradation. In case of large-scale deforestation, the risk of biodiversity loss is high. The ecosystem services associated with biodiversity are lost when the diversity in species decreases.	wwf.panda.org/discover/our_focus/food_practice/sustainable_production/soy earth.org/soybean-products-and-its-environmental-impact

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# Materiality analysis of Outward Impacts

ID	Topic	Sub-topic	Sub-sub- topic	Operational context relevant to the (sub-)sub-topic	Causes of the negative or positive impact / reasons it can continue to exist	Description of the impact on the environment, people and society	Source(s)
5	Environment	Resource use and circular economy		Vivera is a food manufacturer that is reliant on plastic and cardboard packaging for conservation and marketing purposes.  Additionally, as an industrial facility, it produces waste streams that require management.	Negative: Large-scale procurement of virgin/non-renewable (packaging) materials, produced with energy generated from fossil fuels.  Positive: Vivera and its suppliers have taken steps to gradually reduce material waste through research or investment in reduced/reusable/recyclable packaging.	Depletion of natural resources for the production of packaging materials; Generation of large (packaging) waste streams leading to (plastic) pollution and emissions. The environmental impact depends on how waste can be / is treated.	Interviews
6	Social	Safety		Vivera is a food manufacturer employing around 500 workers. In addition, many external visitors and contractors visit their production premises. The production process involves working with heavy moving equipment, such as dough mixers, heavy objects which need to be moved around, and high temperatures such as frying oil.	Negative: Regardless of the safety measures currently in place, the risk of exposing workers to potentially lethal and/or irreversible accidents, though small, remains present in everyday operations. In 3 years, 2 accidents happened that were not lethal but did have irreversible consequences.  Positive: Due to safety measures taken, reinforced by laws and regulations, no lethal accidents have happened in recent years and most accidents had only minor consequences.	Incidents and, in the worst case, fatalities of Vivera's own employees or hired workers.	1.9_22-07-08-ima-online- rapport-vivera-2021 Interviews
7	Social	Occupational health & wellbeing		Vivera's manufacturing processes include physical-intensive activities, at times in unnatural postures. In addition, food manufacturing and retailing is a fast-paced, dynamic industry which can be demanding to employees.  Moreover, Vivera works a lot with migrant workers (mainly from Eastern Europe). In the past, there have been several incidents concerning working and living conditions of migrant workers. Payment of decent/living wages can also be an issue.	Negative: Vivera currently does not monitor the pressure that employees experience, so the potential for work-related stress is high.  As described under safety, the (work-related) physical wellbeing of employees is more regulated and monitored, also reinforced by laws and regulations. Nonetheless, physical working environments are known to affect the physical wellbeing of workers.	Physical and/or mental disability, at times long term, which can result into (early, permanent) dropout of employees.	1.9_22-07-08-ima-online- rapport-vivera-2021 Interviews
8	Social	Human capital development		Vivera is a food manufacturer, however innovation (and development) of intellectual property, for example recipes or production processes of products, are crucial to the continuity of the organization.	Negative: Vivera invests in personal development opportunities, but the risk that these are not sufficient and/or there is insufficient awareness of the possibilities potentially stands in the way of employees growing in their career within/beyond Vivera. The language barrier of the many immigrant workers at Vivera is also a potential obstacle.	The extent to which employers invest in the development of their employees determines their ability to develop in skill, thus affecting wellbeing and economic development.	Interviews

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# Materiality analysis of Outward Impacts

IC	,	Topic	Sub-topic Sub-sub- topic	Operational context relevant to the (sub-)sub-topic	Causes of the negative or positive impact / reasons it can continue to exist	Description of the impact on the environment, people and society	Source(s)
,	9	Social	Diversity & inclusion	Vivera performs various business activities and therefore has a diverse staff, for example with regard to educational level and nationality.	Negative: The ratio between men and women is balanced, reducing the risk of one gender not feeling at home in the organization. Additionally, Vivera employs many immigrant workers. Insufficient transparency in job descriptions and salaries increases the risk of different groups being treated unequally.  Lack of awareness of their rights makes immigrant workers vulnerable to inappropriate conduct by co-workers and/or external visitors.	Feelings of exclusion can lead to decreased mental wellbeing and psychological safety in the workplace. In the worst cases, this leads to longterm mental and/or physical symptoms.	Interviews
1	0	Social	Consumer health & safety	Vivera produces food products that will be consumed after a period of logistics (storage, transport, retail) by consumers in various countries.	Negative: Vivera produces products that, despite present control measures, are susceptible to contamination and/or spoiling which can harm human health. Risks include improper heating/cooling of products, mismatching packaging and contents, and cross-contamination of products with different ingredients.  Vivera produces products that contain animal proteins such as cheese that contain a high amount of salt and fat, resulting in a lower NutriScore.  Positive: By changing its core business to products using plant-based proteins and raising awareness of the benefits of plant-based diets, Vivera contributes to diets lower in salt and saturated fats. The national nutrition score for the majority of Vivera products is in the highest category.	Food consumption-related incidents (spoiled/allergens/contaminations), in worst case causing fatalities; Contribution to (un)healthy food consumption / diets resulting into higher/lower risk of health problems.	Interviews
	1	Social	Community engagement	Vivera has several locations, with its largest production location in Holten, in the Dutch province of Overijssel. It is one of the larger and more well-known companies in the region.	Positive: As one of the larger and more well-known companies in the region, Vivera can potentially contribute to local developments such as events, sponsorships, job opportunities, education, internships, and innovation or involve local entrepreneurs in their operations, for example by cooperating on local water management or transportation.	Economic development/social cohesion	Interviews
1	2	Governance	Corruption & bribery	Vivera has a wide range of suppliers and its value chains can be long and opaque, starting in non-Western countries where risks of bribery and corruption are higher. Moreover, the food industry has experienced corruption scandals in the past.	Negative: Insufficient transparency in value chains leaves Vivera potentially vulnerable to contributing to corruption and bribery through its value chains. Possibility of corruption, and absence of educational programs and mechanisms focused on detecting corruption.	Societal damage, primarily in the form of lost tax revenues that can be used to address societal issues.	bis.lexisnexis.co.uk/blog/ categories/governance- risk-and-compliance/food- manufacturers-bribery- and-corruption

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# Guide to CO<sub>2</sub> footprint report

### **Period**

We calculate greenhouse gas emissions based on our fiscal year, which roughly corresponds to a calendar year (1 January 2023 to 31 December 2023).

### **Organizational boundaries**

Our emission calculations start with the cultivation of food products and extraction of raw materials and end when products leave the Vivera production lines and facilities. Emissions associated with downstream transport and distribution or end-of-life processing of products after sale are not included in the 2020-2022 carbon footprint, but we may include them in a subsequent CO<sub>2</sub> footprint.

All the sites operated by Vivera are included: Holten, Rijssen, Vriezenveen and Deventer.

### **Guidelines**

Scope 1 & 2

Emissions are calculated according to the methodology of the Corporate Accounting and Reporting Standard as defined by the Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Protocol.

Scope 3 emissions are calculated according to the Corporate Value Chain Scope 3 Guidance by GHG Protocol (also known as 'Scope 3 guidelines').

### **Operational boundaries**

The GHG Protocol requires organizations to establish and document their operational boundaries and classify their emissions as direct (Scope 1) or indirect (Scope 2 and 3).

Operational boundaries should be reassessed annually by taking into account the changing importance of different sources of carbon emissions, changed data availability and reliability, and new international guidelines.

### **Emissions**

CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions into the atmosphere, are reported in kilograms of carbon dioxide equivalents (CO<sub>2</sub>e). This is the universal unit of measurement used to indicate the global warming potential (GWP) of each greenhouse gas, expressed in terms of the GWP of one unit of CO<sub>2</sub>. These units are used as a common standard for assessing emissions of various greenhouse gases.

Vivera has concluded that, in line with the operational boundaries, the following emissions fall within the scope of Vivera's CO<sub>2</sub> report.

### **Calculating emissions**

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Emissions are calculated using activity data and emission conversion factors based on the following formula:

Emission =
Activity Data \* Emission Conversion Factor

### **Activity data**

Activity data is the quantitative measure of an activity level that results in greenhouse gas emissions. It is multiplied by an emission conversion factor to derive the greenhouse gas emissions associated with a process or operation. Activity data includes the number of kilowatt-hours of electricity consumed, the amount of fuel used, the volume of goods purchased, and the distance travelled. Activity data used to calculate greenhouse gas emissions is derived from supplier invoices, meter readings or correspondence exchanged with suppliers.



# Guide to CO<sub>2</sub> footprint report

In line with the operational boundaries, Vivera has concluded that the following emissions are within scope of CO<sub>2</sub> reporting for the company:

### Scope 1 & 2

Total energy use of the production sites, facilities and vehicles.

### Scope 3

### Goods and services purchased

The ingredients and packaging materials sourced by Vivera.

### **Capital assets**

The capital assets purchased during the reporting year, such as building materials or machinery.

### Fuel and energy-related activities

The emissions associated with the energy used in Vivera's own operations.

### **Upstream transport and distribution**

Fuel consumed by vehicles and vessels not owned by Vivera, based on the estimated tonne-kilometres of goods to Vivera's business locations. This also includes goods stored at internal (Holten) and external (Nijkerk) cold storage locations.

### Waste generated during activities

All waste streams produced by Vivera, including: food waste, industrial waste, paper and cardboard, packaged and unpackaged food products, frying oil and other waste.

### **Business trips**

Business trips made by Vivera employees by plane, train and car. Travel in company-leased cars for business purposes is not included in this category; these business trips are reported under Scope 1 & 2.

### **Employee commuting**

In scope

Yes

Yes

Yes

Yes

Yes

No

Yes

Yes

Yes Yes

Yes

N/A No

N/A

No No

N/A

N/A No

The commute by Vivera employees from their homes to Vivera facilities (on a daily basis). The estimated average distance travelled from work to home and the mode of transport used is self-reported by Vivera employees. Vivera does not currently have primary data about employee commuting.

### **Upstream leased assets**

Not relevant.

### **Downstream transport and distribution**

Transport and logistics executed by parties in the downstream value chain, such as transport from distribution centres to retailers and transport by consumers from retailers to their homes.

### **Processing of sold products**

Not relevant.

### **Use of sold products**

In accordance with the Scope 3 guidelines, food products outside the scope are considered an 'indirect usephase emission product'. For these types of products, it is optional to report on how products are used after they are sold.

### **End-of-life processing of sold products**

End-of-life processing of packaging materials.

#### **Downstream leased assets**

Not relevant.

### **Franchises**

Not relevant.

### Investments

If there are no capital assets.

### Scopes

Scope 1 - Direct emissions

Scope 2 - Indirect emissions

Scope 3 - Other indirect emissions

### Emission types

Diesel use Petrol use Coolant leakage

Electricity use

Purchased goods and services

Capital assets
Fuel and energy-related activities

Upstream transport and distribution Waste generated during activities

Business trips

Employee commuting

Upstream leased assets

Downstream transport and distribution

Processing of sold products

Use of sold products

End-of-life processing of sold products

Downstream leased assets

Franchises Investments



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EAT. The EAT-Lancet Commission on Food, Planet, Health. <a href="https://eatforum.org/">https://eatforum.org/</a> eat-lancet-commission

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"Plant-based products contain much less saturated fat, reducing the risk of cardiovascular disease."

Netherlands Heart Foundation (n.d.).
More plant-based, less meat and dairy www.hartstichting.nl/gezond-leven/gezond-eten/meer-plantaardig-enminder-vlees-en-zuivel

"It also uses less water and takes up less farmland. In turn, that is good for biodiversity."

ProVeg (2017). REDUCING ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION BY EATING PLANT-BASED FOODS. www.proveg.com/nl/blog/broeikasgassen-verminderen-plantaardig-eten

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Verduurzaming Nederland (2022).
De Vegan Challange
<a href="https://www.verduurzamingnederland.nl/vegan-challenge">www.verduurzamingnederland.nl/vegan-challenge</a>

"According to ProVeg, an organisation that promotes more plant-based food, it takes 5 times more water to produce meat compared to our plant-based products."

Proveg (2017). REDUCING ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION BY EATING PLANT-BASED FOODS. proveg.com/nl/blog/broeikasgassen-verminderen-plantaardig-eten

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Unric.org (2021) WHAT WE EAT IS THE MAIN REASON FOR DIMINISHING BIODIVERSITY unric.org/nl/onze-voeding-is-de-hoofdoorzaak-van-de-afname-van-biodiversiteit

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### **PAGE 12**

"A lifestyle with less meat and more wholegrain cereals, more vegetables, more fruits and nuts lowers the risk of cardiovascular disease."

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"If no one makes any changes in the way we eat, 1.9 million people will die from cardiovascular disease in 2030."

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