Harmony Wheat Production Standard

The Harmony Standard defines how to produce wheat while protecting biodiversity and improving soil health, based on the principles of regenerative agriculture.

A comprehensive approach to wheat cultivation:

the Harmony Standard covers all stages, from seed to storage, with four main objectives: reducing the carbon footprint, protecting soil and biodiversity, ensuring wheat quality, and supporting farmers.

A clear framework:

the Harmony Standard introduces specific requirements to ensure wheat is grown using practices rooted in regenerative agriculture.

Requirements adapted to field realities:

the Standard combines a common mandatory baseline with additional optional requirements, allowing each farm to go further according to its local context in each country.

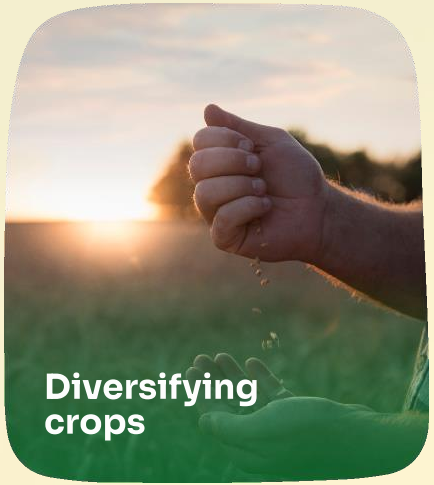
A shared responsibility:

the Standard's requirements apply to both storage facilities and farms, engaging them in the transition to regenerative agriculture.

A robust and controlled approach:

independent certification bodies audit farmers and storage facilities every year to ensure compliance with the Standard's requirements.

A Standard that addresses key challenges



Farmers and storage facilities must comply with the applicable practices (P), with requirements varying by country and type of operation.

Discover the Standard's practices

Harmony Standard Practices (P)

100% Mandatory Common baseline mandatory requirement

50% Optional Optional requirement that can be adapted to the farm's context *(at least 50% of optional requirements must be met to obtain certification)*

P1 — Mandatory / Optional

Crop rotation – Diversification and duration

- The farmer has grown several different crops on the plot before sowing Harmony wheat. These crops may be main or secondary crops, including fallow land, intercrops, temporary grassland (less than 5 years), catch crops or intermediate cover crops.
- In addition, one of these crops may be a legume species.

Contributes to diversify crop rotations, thereby limiting pest pressure and reducing the use of chemicals on wheat.

P2 — Mandatory

Soil cover – Diversification and duration

Before Harmony wheat, the farmer keeps the soil covered (stubble, regrowth, crop residues) until sowing. After harvesting Harmony wheat and before a spring crop, the farmer sows a cover crop for at least 60 days to ensure soil cover over winter.

Contributes to limit erosion and runoff, contributes to preserving soil and water quality, and maintains field fertility.

P3 — Mandatory / Optional

Tillage reduction

- The farmer adopts tillage practices that reduce soil disturbance. In practical terms, this means reducing the frequency and/or depth of tillage interventions or switching to direct seeding.
- In addition, one of these crops may be a legume species.

Contributes to the long-term preservation of agricultural soils by limiting their disturbance and erosion.

P4 — Mandatory

Soil understanding – Analysis

The farmer carries out a physico-chemical soil analysis for each Harmony wheat plot. The farmer uses these data to inform agronomic decisions (amendments, cover crops, etc.). The analysis must include at least pH, organic matter (OM) content, cationic exchange capacity (CEC), nitrogen (N), phosphorus (P) and potassium (K).

Improves knowledge of the soil, helping to optimize agronomic decisions and monitor the impact of regenerative practices on soil quality.

P5 — Mandatory

Nitrogen management - Quantity

The farmer draws up and keeps up to date a Fertilization Plan for all Harmony wheat plots, in line with the EU Nitrates Directive of the country where the farm is located. The farmer also calculates the actual nitrogen use efficiency for each Harmony wheat plot.

Contributes to optimize nitrogen inputs and reduce the use of chemicals.

Harmony Standard Practices (P)

100% Mandatory Common baseline mandatory requirement

50% Optional Optional requirement that can be adapted to the farm's context *(at least 50% of optional requirements must be met to obtain certification)*

P6 Optional

Nitrogen management - Type of fertilizer

The farmer selects at least one fertilization practice from two options: either leaving the residues of the previous crop in place on all Harmony plots (except in cases of DON risk) or using organic fertilizers on at least one Harmony wheat plot, excluding digestates and residues from the meat industry.
Urban sewage sludge is also prohibited from sowing to harvest.

Contributes to optimize nitrogen inputs and reduce the use of chemical products.

P7 Optional

Optimization of fuel consumption by agricultural equipment

The farmer attends at least one training course every three years on the economic and environmental impacts of farm-scale mechanisation.

Contributes to reduce fuel consumption of agricultural machinery.

P8 Mandatory

Planting and maintaining non-productive areas and features

The farmer sets aside part of his.her land for natural areas, according to at least one of the following options:

- Melliferous fallows equivalent to at least 3% of the area sown with Harmony wheat, located on the farm, sown so that they flower from May to at least August, with no phytosanitary treatments, and with a buffer strip of at least 5 meters where no treatments are applied during flowering.
- Hedges whose total length is equivalent to 3% of the area sown with Harmony wheat, with several vegetation layers (herbaceous plants, shrubs, trees), not treated with phytosanitary products and pruned only in winter, from November to February.
- A set of agroecological features: at least 5% of the utilized agricultural area dedicated to a mosaic of features (fallow land, hedges, ponds, groves, isolated trees, etc.), including at least 4 different types, regularly maintained and not treated with phytosanitary products.

Contributes to provide habitats for wildlife and plant species and supports the natural regulation of certain pests, making farms more resilient to external shocks.

Harmony Standard Practices (P)

100% Mandatory Common baseline mandatory requirement

50% Optional Optional requirement that can be adapted to the farm's context *(at least 50% of optional requirements must be met to obtain certification)*

P9 — Optional

Restrict controversial molecules and use alternatives

Glyphosate is prohibited between sowing and harvest. Before sowing, it may only be used in case of no deep till or if wheat is sown using direct seeding. Growth regulators are prohibited, except in cases of serious lodging risk and significant economic loss where other solutions are considered insufficient; in such cases, non-residual products are preferred.
Neonicotinoids (acetamiprid, clothianidin, imidacloprid, thiacloprid, thiamethoxam) are prohibited.

Contributes to reduce the use of plant protection products and encourages farmers to switch to alternative solutions whenever possible.

P10 — Mandatory

Ban on storage insecticides

When storing Harmony wheat, storage insecticides are prohibited, except for phosphine fumigation, which remains authorized.

Contributes to limit pesticide residues on wheat and encourages the use of alternative methods.

P11 — Optional

Sowing and DON (Deoxynivalenol) risk management

For each Harmony wheat plot, farmers anticipate lodging and DON risks. Farmers comply with the recommended sowing period for their region, choose a sowing density adapted to the sowing date, soil type and potential yield loss, and then verify this density in the field, either through a trial or by calculation. For DON, farmers also factor into their decisions the previous crop, tillage practices and the wheat variety grown.
DON risk refers to the risk that a naturally occurring fungus develops on the wheat due to rainfall and produces a toxin that can cause stomach pain.

Contributes to preserve the sanitary quality of the wheat.

P12 — Mandatory

Ban on hazardous products for human (consumer & farmer) health

Plant protection products bearing the risk phrases H300, H301, H310, H311, H330, H331, H334, H340, H350, H350i, H360, H360d, H360f, H360FD, H360Fd, H360Df, H370 or H372 are prohibited, except for certain commercial products containing fluroxypyr, prosulfocarb, mesosulfuron or the combination clodinafop-propargyl / cloquintocet-mexyl. In addition, at the time of use, the farmer shall possess or have access to the latest version of the product's Safety Data Sheet (SDS), in accordance with the EU CLP Regulation.

Contributes to reduce the use of chemicals.

Harmony Standard Practices (P)

100% Mandatory Common baseline mandatory requirement

50% Optional Optional requirement that can be adapted to the farm's context *(at least 50% of optional requirements must be met to obtain certification)*

P13 — Optional

Understanding and preservation of biodiversity

The farmer implements at least one action in favor of biodiversity from among the following: a training course on biodiversity conservation and related best practices; an assessment of the farm's potential to host biodiversity; species inventories, monitoring protocols or soil biological analyses; or a specific assessment of one category of agroecological feature with a view to developing a management plan.

Contributes to better understand the biodiversity potential, identify areas for improvement and integrate biodiversity into farm management.

P14 — Optional

Reasoning water inputs, considering the water reserves of the soil

Farmers may only irrigate a Harmony wheat plot if three conditions are met: they know and keep evidence of the soil water reserves; they keep records of the volume of water used and the justification for irrigation; and they use equipment that optimize water inputs.

Contributes to optimize water resource management.

P15 — Optional

Farmers onboarding and training on Harmony program

The farmer takes part in at least one training course on regenerative agriculture every three years.

Contributes to maintain knowledge related to the principles of regenerative agriculture.

P16 — Mandatory

Harmony wheat traceability management

Farmers ensure the traceability of Harmony-certified wheat for as long as it remains under their responsibility. Each year, they estimate the expected yield of Harmony wheat. All batches of Harmony wheat must be identified and physically separated from non-certified wheat. Evidence must document each flow of Harmony wheat.

Ensures transparency of the origin of Harmony wheat and its traceability.

P17 — Mandatory

Harmony wheat data collection

The farmer is able to collect and share with the buyer data on how Harmony wheat has been produced and stored, enabling the monitoring of the impacts of the wheat cropping (e.g. on biodiversity, carbon, etc.).

Facilitates the monitoring of Harmony farm performance.

Harmony Standard Practices (P)

100% Mandatory Common baseline mandatory requirement

50% Optional Optional requirement that can be adapted to the farm's context *(at least 50% of optional requirements must be met to obtain certification)*

P18

Mandatory

Group Management

The entity responsible for managing a group of farmers (e.g. a cooperative) must have the capacity and expertise required to meet the Harmony Standard's requirements (including farmer support and oversight). It must establish a monitoring system describing procedures, roles and responsibilities. It selects farmers and reserves the right to add or exclude group members from the Harmony list, for example based on their performance. It must have a signed contract with each member, ensure that all complete an annual self-assessment, and carry out on-farm audits for at least 10% of these members (before the certification body audit). It must keep evidence of audits, onsite assessments and related documentation for at least three years, ensure that personnel conducting assessments are competent and adequately trained, and remain responsible for farmer compliance with the Harmony Standard, including the development and follow-up of corrective action plans where necessary.

Contributes to strengthen the reliability of audits and provide technical support to farmers, thereby ensuring compliance with practices related to Harmony wheat.

P19

Mandatory

Harmony Farmer Premium management

The entity responsible for managing a group of farmers (e.g. a cooperative) pays the Harmony Farmer Premium to the farmer for each purchase of Harmony wheat and is responsible for ensuring that the correct amount is paid. It must have a contract or signed agreement with each farmer specifying the premium amount, as well as the terms and conditions of payment, and must keep evidence of each premium payment, including the amount and the date. The premium must be paid in full; payment in kind is not permitted. After the sale, the farmer keeps evidence of the premium amount received and the date of payment for each sale of Harmony wheat.

Ensures transparency of the financial commitments linked to Harmony wheat production and facilitates verification.