



Sustainable Agriculture
Philosophy

■ Sustainable Agriculture Philosophy

Recent developments have shown that the issue of food security can no longer be discussed in isolation from climate change, environmental degradation and low crop yields threatening agriculture production. It is generally accepted that agricultural practices are contributing to the negative impact on natural resource base, with resultant effect on its future productive potential.

These worrying trends coincide with the diminishing availability of arable land and water resources for crop production and increasing soil and biodiversity decimation due to the overuse of natural resource base. There is therefore a consensus that agriculture is standing at a crossroad because the future productive potential of the natural resource base is being depleted.



As technology is changing the face of agriculture, TAO was conceptualized to lead the vanguard of galvanizing Youth Agripreneurs to drive both agricultural digitization and eco-friendly practices. TAO Sustainable Agriculture Philosophy is anchored on the use of best available knowledge, technologies, and practices to ensure that sustainable intensification delivers more with minimal environmental impacts.

■ Sustainable Agriculture Practices

Practice	Application and Target Outcome
Maintain and Enhance Biodiversity	We understand that the huge variety of vegetation that constitutes part of the ecosystems is necessary to maintain natural cycles and build environmental resilience to climate change. Our approach is such that it promotes slashing and chopping of post-harvest residues, which are allowed to decay prior to ploughing and harrowing. This achieves minimum soil disturbance, builds the topsoil and enriches its organic (carbon) components, increases its water infiltration rates and water holding capacity whilst protecting natural and agricultural ecosystems.
Promote Optimal Use of Agricultural Farmlands and High Yield Through Sustainable Intensification	By leveraging on TAO's digital agricultural platform with digital capabilities for soil testing and algorithm engine that automatically analyze the combination of NPK results, PH levels and farm size to determine the input requirements of a smallholder farmlands (including fertilizer), we enable more efficient use of existing agricultural land to achieve high yields with minimal land conversion, and restoration of degraded lands with depleted nutrients.
Improve Resource Optimization	We will apply resources optimally in our production and administrative work, deliberately looking for opportunities to recycle, responsible usage of water, and get more with less resources.
Encourage Organic Farming	We will encourage organic farming that encourages the use of organic means of fertilization and crop growth enhancement to reduce the impact of inorganic supplements on the soil and general environment.
Support Our Host Communities with Sustainability	We will support our host communities which are predominantly rural areas to adopt sustainability practices such as solar lighting, low carbon cooking.
Align with Our Partners and Support Our Vendors	Where the opportunity exists and is feasible, we will seek to adopt the best sustainability practices of our partners while we educate and encourage our vendors to adopt wholesome sustainability practices wherever there is a teaching opportunity.
Reduce Our Carbon Footprint	We will strive to reduce our carbon footprint by adopting responsible practices that reduces the damage on the environment, particularly, we will encourage such practices as reduced paper usage while most of our documentation will be digitized and reduce travel where most of our meeting will be electronic.
Ensure Economic Viability	TAO business model is designed to ensure economic viability for both now and in the future; across the entire value chain from farmers, input suppliers, offtakers to logistics provider.

Overall, TAO's Sustainable Agriculture Philosophy is clearly in tandem with the "Five Principles of Sustainable Food and Agriculture" as advocated by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, which harps on the importance of resource efficiency, conservation practices, improvement in the economic well-being, building capacity for resilience and effective governance system.

Finally, we believe the youth, due to their teachability hold promise to drive, deliver and support the mainstreaming of environmental responsibility and sustainability in agricultural practices.