# Regen10 – Landscape Transition Pathways – Project overview

- Regen10 has developed landscape-level transition pathways across five significant agricultural regions to model the economic outcomes of shifting to regenerative practices.
- The combination between countries and agricultural products was made based on impact, feasibility, representation and applicability of results. The choice of landscapes was primarily driven by their national-level importance in the production and export of the specific products.
- A key element of this process is understanding the economics of transitioning from conventional agricultural practices to regenerative ones, as well as the potential environmental and social outcomes of such transitions at landscape level.
- A transition pathway represents a switch from conventional practices common in the landscape to those that help restore and rebuild natural systems.

### Selected Landscapes

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Notes: The proposed approaches are not prescriptive but represent potential pathways for agricultural transition, amongst the many possible Source: Systemiq analysis.

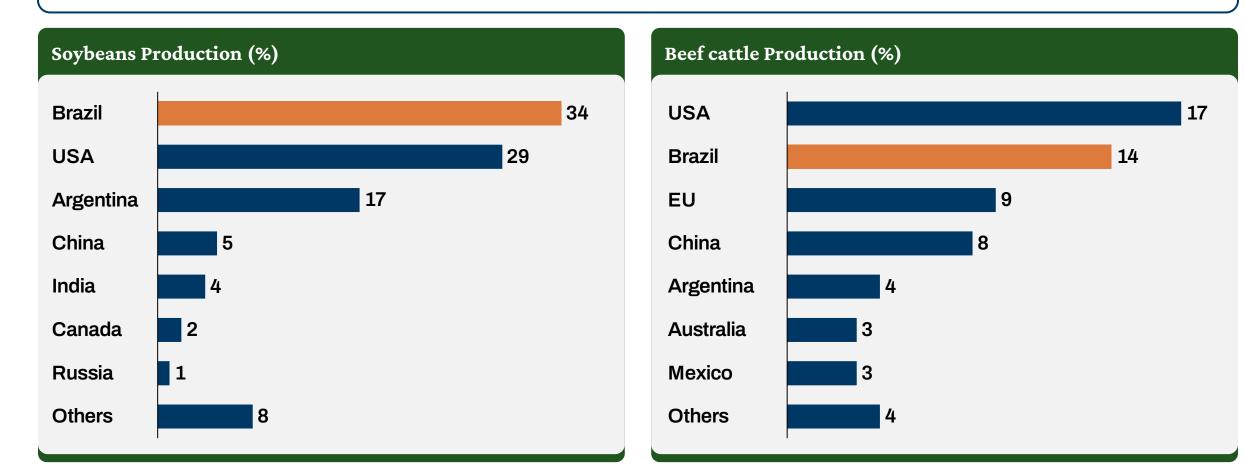


# Querência – Brazil – Soy & Beef



# Brazil together with the US dominates the soy and beef industries

- Brazil contributes 34% of global soybean production and 14% of global beef production.
- The country's significant role as a global soybean producer and exporter has bolstered economic growth and job creation.



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# In Querência City, large soy and beef farms meet indigenous territories at the Amazon frontier

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Querência produces 1.2 million tons of soybeans annually, even though 40% of the city area falls within the Xingu and Wawi indigenous territories



### Landscape information

- Geographical Area: 1.8M ha
- Agricultural Area: 0.52M ha
- Population: 0,026M (54% rural)
- Land holdings: 678
- Average farm size: 1230 ha
- Indigenous Territories: 0.7M ha (Wawi and Xingu)

## **Current Challenges**

### **Environmental:**

- Monocrop dominance of soybeans and cattle systems
- Degraded pastureland from multiple years of lowtech extensive cattle ranching
- Significant legal forest reserve deficits in rural settlements and ongoing deforestation
   Economic:
- Stricter regulations from importing countries
- Revenues highly concentrated in three main products
- Limited profitability resilience in existing cattle management model

Social:

- Tensions over Indigenous land rights and agricultural expansion
- Rapid populational growth driven by expanding agricultural production

## Extensive beef cattle ranching



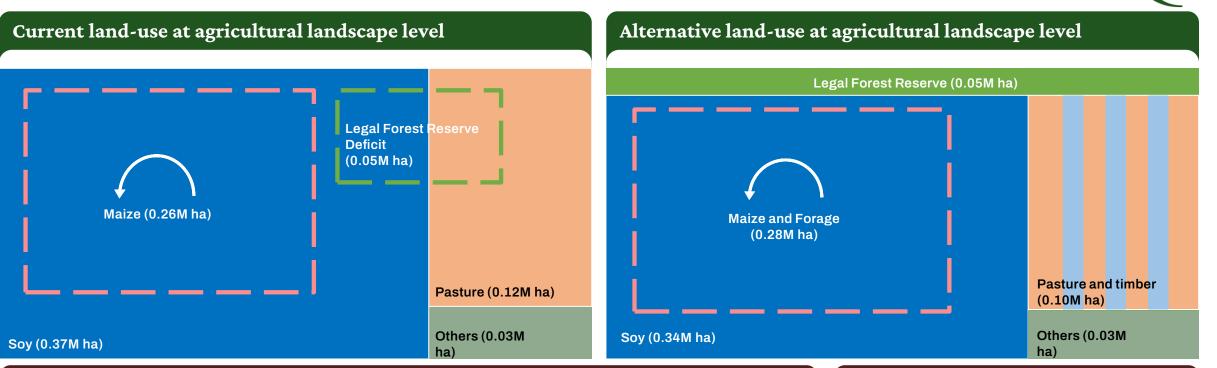
Figure: Everton Queiroz. Extracted from Acrimat (2023) https://acrimat.org.br/portal/com-novo-recorde-mt-se-mantem-na-lideranca-com-o-maior-rebanho-bovino-do-pais/

# Large soybean cultivation fields



Figure: Kamikia Kisêdjê. Extracted from Mongabay (2021) https://news.mongabay.com/2021/07/as-soy-frenzy-grips-brazil-deforestation-closes-in-on-indigenous-lands/

# An alternative approach in Querência includes crop, livestock and forestry integration systems



### Transition pathway hypothesis

- Implementation of integrated livestock and forestry systems, along with enhanced pasture management, aims to increase cattle productivity<sup>1</sup> and animal welfare<sup>2</sup>, diversify incomes with timber, and reduce pressure for new agricultural land for pasture.
- Adoption of integrated crop and livestock systems in the soy area using maize sequencing in association with forage, permitting animal weight gains during the dry season, lower synthetic input use, and healthier soils with better soy yields.
- Restoration of legal forest reserves as 'ecological corridors' to connect reforested and native areas, supporting biodiversity conservation and Forest Code compliance.

### Set of changes used

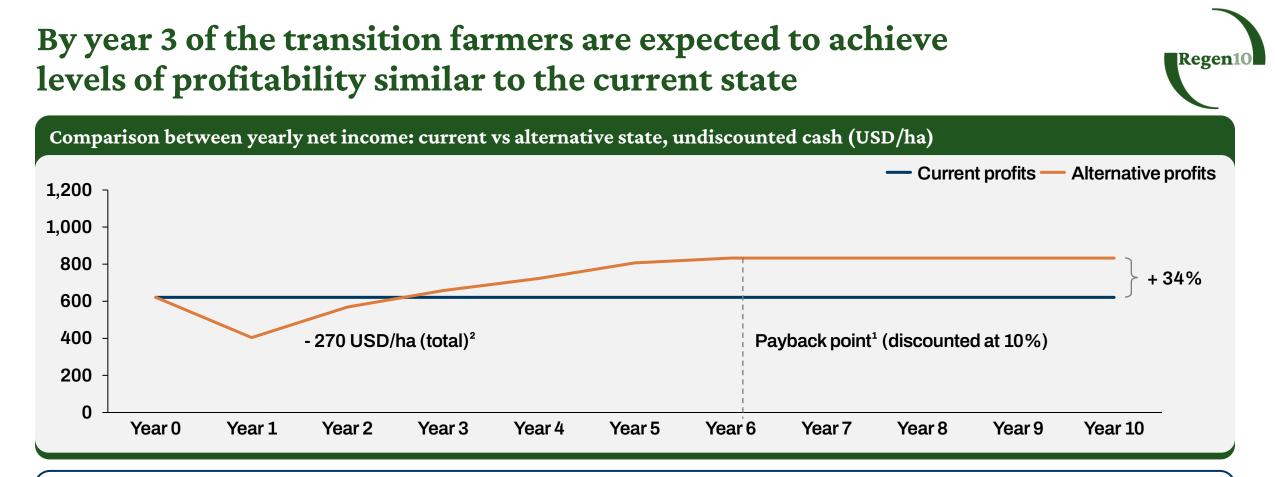
 Forestry/trees: silvo-pasture systems and native forest restauration

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- Livestock/grazing: integration into crop sequencing, intensification and better pasture management
- Cover crops: forage for animal feed in consortium with maize
- Crop diversification: amplification of maize sequencing post-soy

Notes: <sup>1</sup> Higher stoking rate (up to 2.5 heads/ha in summer) and weight gains per animal from better pasture management systems. <sup>2</sup>From tree shadowing, shelter and enhanced grazing options during dry season. Sources: MapBiomas, IBGE, Embrapa, Systemiq analysis, Expert interviews



• Farmers' profitability decreases during an interim transition period and reaches a point of equilibrium 34% higher in the alternative state after year 6.

• The initial drop in profitability is mostly due to reforestation costs, introduction of timber trees and investments in enhanced pasture management.

- The revenue decline from converting agricultural land back to natural areas is balanced by increased livestock and soy productivity through crop and forestry integration, along with additional timber gains starting from year 6.
- Farmers would forgo 270 USD/ha in cumulative profits before profitability returns to current state levels (undiscounted cash).
- For an average 1230 ha farm, a short-term cost of ~\$300k (profit lost in years 1-3) is offset by expected additional profits of ~\$1.4M in years 4-10, resulting in a net gain of ~\$1.1M over the 10-year period (undiscounted cash).<sup>3</sup>

Note: <sup>1</sup>When accumulated profits from alternative state surpasses those from current state. <sup>2</sup>Model focuses on the agricultural landscape (aggregation of farms) and does not contemplate costs for new landscape level infrastructure or market channels. Conservatively assumes no carbon revenues, green premiums, or increase in land value, and a cyclic approach for earlier timber harvesting. Landscape transition happens all at once. <sup>3</sup>Costs and returns will vary significantly based on the farm's portfolio with animal growers experimenting higher costs on average. Source: Systemiq analysis

# A positive net change in profitability indicates an economically attractive transition for Querência in 10 years



### 10-year CUMULATIVE income and expenditures – NPV<sup>1</sup> discounted with 10% rate (USD/ha) 15.047 **Higher and** legally compliant income -11.231 4.287 471 3.816 427 Transition: Transition: Transition vs Transition: **Current: Gross** Current: Current: Change in **Change in Gross** Current: Net **Profits Profits** Costs Revenues Costs Change in Revenues Profits

 Implementing integrated croplivestock and silvopasture systems is a profitable transition with 471 USD/ha or ~250 Million USD for the landscape in Net Present Value.

- Post-transition cumulative profitability is 12% higher in NPV terms, more diversified and legally compliant with the Brazilian Forest Code.
- Lower Opex<sup>2</sup> from a smaller agricultural area (due to forest restoration) and cost savings on soy synthetic inputs are the main contributors to the reduction in overall costs.
- The positive change in gross revenues from transition is smoothed in NPV terms by the delayed revenues from silvopasture.

Notes: <sup>1</sup>Net Present Value <sup>2</sup>Operating Expenses Source: Systemiq analysis

# Regenerative systems also offer improved environmental and social outcomes for the landscape

Regen10 Framework landscape-level outcomes <sup>1</sup>	Indicative impact from transition		
Economic Environmental Social	Negative	Neutral	Positive
Increase economic diversification and resilience		(	
Increase landscape value creation		(	
Optimize landscape biodiversity & habitat functionality			
Minimize water, soil and air pollution		(	
Improve water availability			
Minimize GHG emissions			
Optimize carbon sequestration and storage			
Enhance inclusivity and empowerment of local communities		•	
Enhance well-being of local communities		(	
Increase employment, knowledge and education		(	
Optimize access to safe and nutritious food			

Key implications and recommendations

Integrating crops, livestock and forestry systems can increase farmers income by 34% after the transition (nominal terms).

Farmers can diversify income through forestry and reduce vulnerability to market shifts, as timber acts as a stabler financial asset.

Transition is viable even with legal forest reserve restoration, easing compliance burdens and improving environmental outcomes.

For the transition to be possible, we need:

- Rural credit and financing options that permit initial investments in the transition with repayment terms that match delayed revenues.
- Farmers, particularly in the city's rural settlements, to be assisted with affordable technical aid and land tenure regularization.
- To overcome cultural resistance to change.

Notes: <sup>1</sup>Regen10 Outcome Framework Indicators for Landscapes from zero-draft version. Qualitative base analysis. Source: Systemiq analysis

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# Integrating crops, livestock and forestry systems can increase farmers income in Querência while restoring forest reserves

Transitioning to a regenerative approach represents a net gain opportunity of 250M USD in additional profits for Querência farmers over 10 years.<sup>12</sup>

Brazil Querência City

# Current state of agricultural landscape

#### Agronomic & Environmental

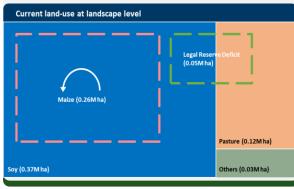
 Dominance of monoculture soybeans and extensive cattle ranching, degraded pasturelands and legal forest reserve deficits.

#### Economic

 Stricter deforestation exporting regulations, concentrated revenues on three products, and limited cattle profitability.

#### Social

Tensions over Indigenous land rights, rapid population growth driven by agricultural expansion.



### Transition pathway hypothesis

Integrated livestock and forestry systems

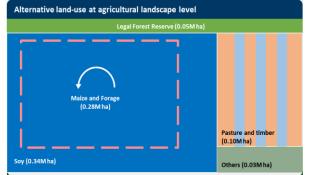
• Implement silvopasture systems to increase cattle productivity, diversify income and reduce pressure for new agricultural land.

Integrated crop and livestock systems

• Sequence soy with maize in association with forage, permitting animal weight gains during the dry season and lower synthetic input use.

**Natural forests** 

• Zero legal reserve forest deficits for compliance and environmental gains



## Results of economic modeling

- Over 10 years, the cumulative effect of a transition to regenerative agriculture is positive with an average added value of 471 USD/ha and a payback<sup>3</sup> by the mid of year 6 (10% discounted).
- Profitability lowers during an interim
  period and reaches a point of equilibrium
  34% higher after year 6.
- New revenue stream from timber, cost savings on synthetic inputs and higher cattle productivity are the main contributors to the positive net change.



Summary

Integrating crops, livestock and forestry systems can increase farmers income by 34% after transition (nominal terms).

Farmers can diversify income through forestry and reduce vulnerability to market shifts, as timber acts as a stabler financial asset.

Transition is viable even with legal forest reserve restoration, easing compliance burden and improving environmental outcomes.

For transition to be possible, we need:

- Rural credit and financing options that permit initial investments in the transition with repayment terms that match delayed revenues.
- Farmers, particularly in the city rural settlements, to be assisted with affordable technical aid and land tenure regularization.
- Overcoming cultural resistance to change.

Note: <sup>1</sup>Net Present Value 10% rate. <sup>2</sup>Costs and returns will vary significantly based on the farm's portfolio. Model focuses on the agricultural landscape and does not contemplate eventual investments in new landscape level infrastructure and market channels. Conservatively assumes no carbon revenues or green premiums and a cyclic approach for earlier timber harvesting. Landscape transition happens all at once. <sup>3</sup> When accumulated profits from alternative state surpasses those from current state.

Change in net profitability over a 10 years period for proposed transition pathway (alternative state/current state) Indicated in relative terms

