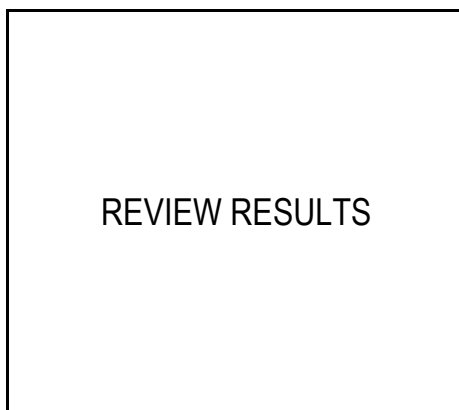


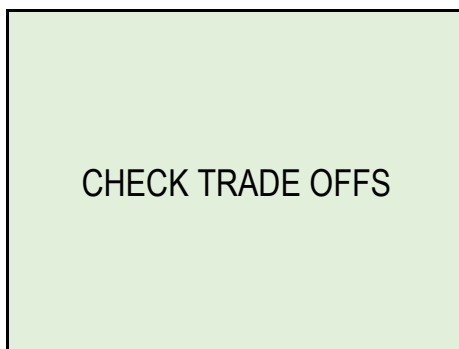
## Next Steps: The assessment as the start of a process of change

This trial assessment is designed to support sustainability on your farm (and beyond the farm-gate). Regular assessments and reviews can help you identify and develop responses to new challenges and enable you to review the performance of previously implemented changes. You can use this document when you review the results of your assessment and use it to think about how to put the results to use. You might not want to think about or take all the steps, and you might take them in a different order (for example, you might have already completed a carbon assessment and have options to make changes to reduce your emissions).

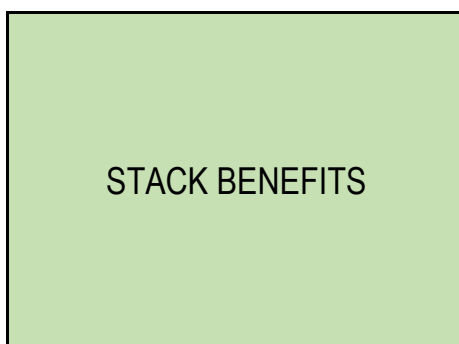
### The Process



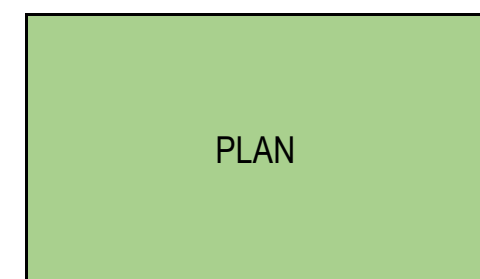
Review your results from the state of the system assessment of risks to your farm's long-term viability, ideally with an advisor, other farmers or other people with expertise you trust. For each category, read the information explaining the results, note down your understanding of the challenges highlighted, plus any that the assessment might not have picked up. Once you've got an overview of challenges, note down the options for change which you think could improve things - or help you adapt to problems you don't control.



For the actions you've identified to tackle issues for your farm in individual categories, think about whether they could have co-benefits or trade-offs for the state of the farm in other categories. Take advice and think about how you might avoid / minimise trade-offs and maximise co-benefits.



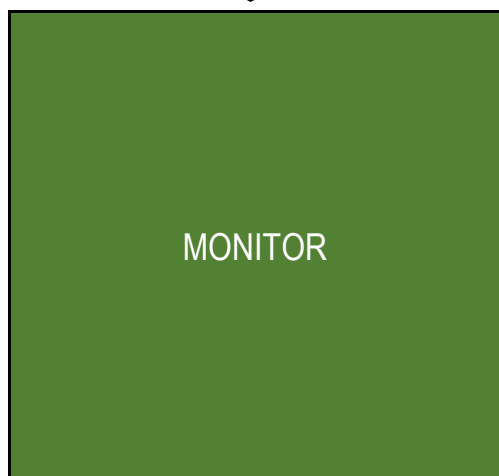
Government, certifiers, the supply chain and others may require (and fund) you to change your practices & your farm's outputs in order to reduce its impacts. They might also ask you to assess outputs like greenhouse gas emissions, so they can track your progress. Prioritise actions which meet both their needs & the needs of your farm (actions identified in your review) so you can 'stack' benefits for them and for you.



Plan your actions based on the previous steps. Note down what changes you make and what you hope they'll achieve. That way, when you next assess your farm you will have a record of what you did differently since the last assessment, and can see whether the improvements you hoped would result have started to appear.



Make changes to improve the state of your system and reduce farming impacts



Regularly repeat reviews/assessments of the state of your farm in order to monitor its condition and how it changes over time following the changes you make. Depending on your agreements with them, government, the supply chain and others who want you to reduce the impacts of your farm on people and planet might also ask you to regularly assess your practices and/or your farm's outputs or impacts. Some of the data you collect for our state of the system assessment may also be usable to give you a head start in completing these other assessments (and vice versa)

### The GFM Team and the process of change

The GFM team develop resources to support change across the farming sector. We use the GFM framework as a common language for understanding farm sustainability in a holistic, accessible way. We test ways to assess different aspects of farm sustainability - like this assessment tool - and share the findings to improve how sustainability is measured. We are not farm advisors ourselves and we recommend that the process of change described above is carried out with advice and/or support - from advisors, other farmers, other trusted experts, or a mix of all of these. The steps can, of course, be taken without that wider support - and progress can be made without following each individual step. But, bringing in others can help sense-check solutions and produce insights that one person on their own would take a lot longer to find.

We would like to say a huge thank you for completing this assessment, and your help towards our research.

If you have any further comments and questions, do feel free to get in touch: [info@globalfarmmetric.org](mailto:info@globalfarmmetric.org)

You can also find us on Twitter, LinkedIn and Instagram via [@GFMCoalition](#)

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