

# *Sustainable practices for agri-food companies*

The Basics



# *Sustainable agri-food practices*

- A sustainable practices means that a producer grows food and textiles without compromising the ability of the environment to produce food and textiles for others in the future
  - Often sustainable practices have a regenerative component in which the methods of growing and harvest improve the soil and environment
  - Sustainable practices also include ensuring workers are paid a living wage
- Why are sustainable practices important?
  - Ensure the resources aren't depleted
  - Reduce input costs and improves profitability.
  - Improve yields

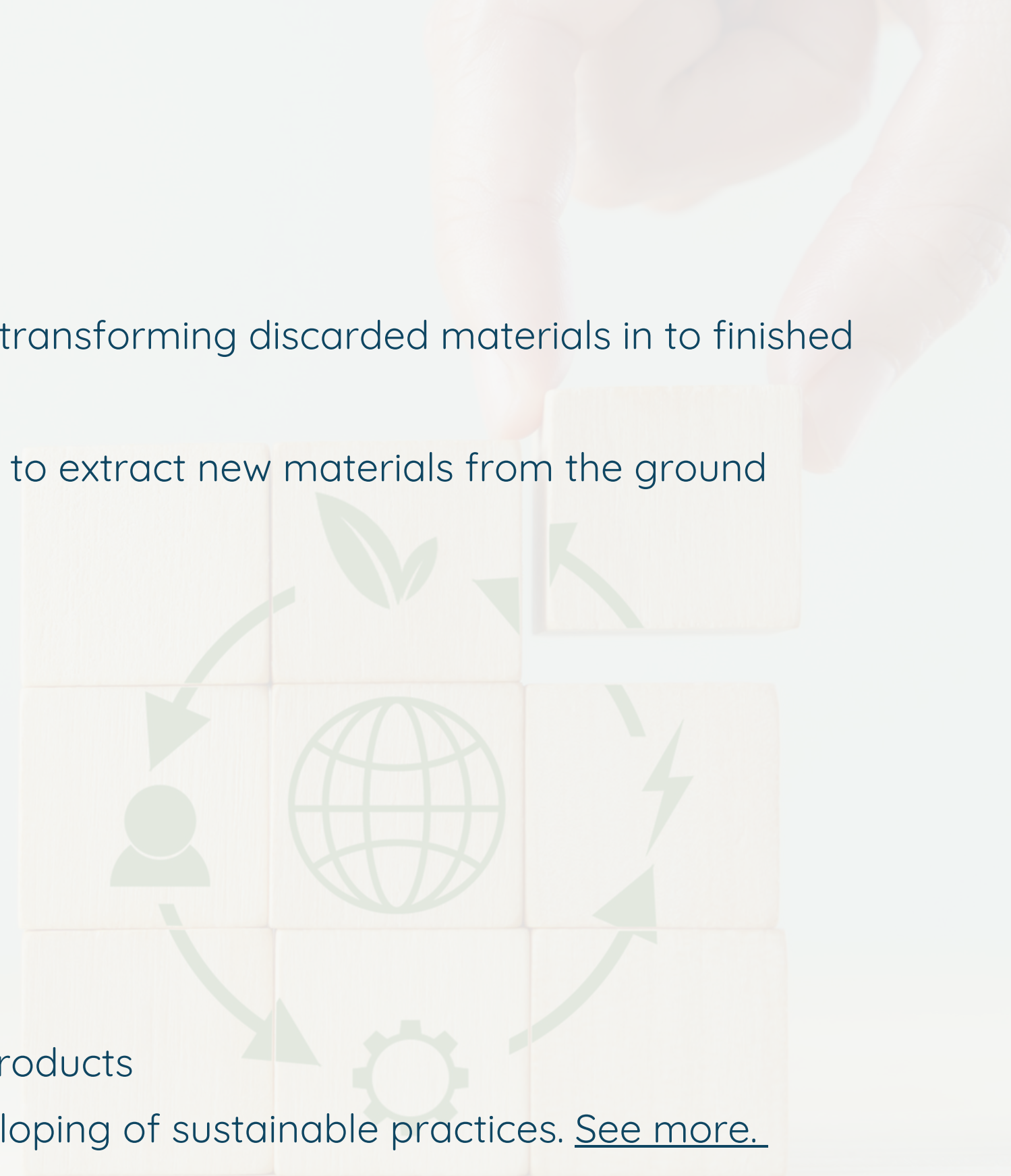


# *Types of sustainable farming practices*

- Using different types of fertilisers
  - The use of biodynamic processes
    - The treatment of a garden as one whole living system with interdependent parts and the creation of mutually beneficial relationships between types of flora and fauna. [See more.](#)
  - Creation of windbreaks
    - Rows of trees to help block the wind and blow away topsoil while providing opportunities. [See more.](#)
  - Sustainable irrigation practices. [See more.](#)
  - Grazing management
    - [Rotational grazing](#)
    - Complementary grazing with two or more types of animals
      - Example: grazing sheep with cattle to improve soil health and reduce the presence of parasites. [See more.](#)
  - There are many more sustainable agricultural practices

# Circular economy

- A type of economy that is based on reusing materials and finding ways of transforming discarded materials in to finished products
- The circular economy aims to reduce waste to zero and minimize the need to extract new materials from the ground
- The circular economy is based on the following principles:
  - Design for the long term with products that are durable
  - Reduce, reuse, and recycle
  - Product as a service
    - Renting products
    - Co-owning products
      - Like a ride share
  - Sustainable supply chains
    - The entire manufacturing process is based on recycled or reused products
  - The use of digital technology to identify opportunities for sharing, developing of sustainable practices. [See more.](#)
- Reduces food waste
- Reduces energy waste
- Engaging in regenerative practices. [See more.](#)



# *Circular economy in the agri-food space*

- The Ivey Business School has identified the circular economy in the agri-food space as a \$50 billion opportunity. [See more.](#)
- Participating in the circular economy involves
  - Mapping supply chains
  - Creating new products
  - Designing new processes and practices
  - Developing partnerships. [See more.](#)

Resources to participate in Canada's agri-food circular economy:

- [Canadian Circular Economy Summit 2025](#)
- [Driving food and agri-tech innovation across Canada](#)
- [Circular Economy](#)
- [Explore circular economy initiatives](#)
- [SUPPORTING ECONOMIC, ENVIRONMENTAL, AND SOCIAL GOALS SIMULTANEOUSLY](#)
- [Powering Up Canada's Circular Economy](#)
- [Protein Industries Canada](#)
- [Guelph and the Circular Economy](#)

