



HUTCHINSONS
Crop Production Specialists



**Agroecology
Services**



A photograph showing two men in a field. One man, wearing a blue cap and a grey and black jacket, is pointing at a soil profile. The other man, wearing a green jacket, is looking on. They are standing next to a deep, vertical cut in the earth, revealing different soil layers. A green plant is visible on the left side of the cut.

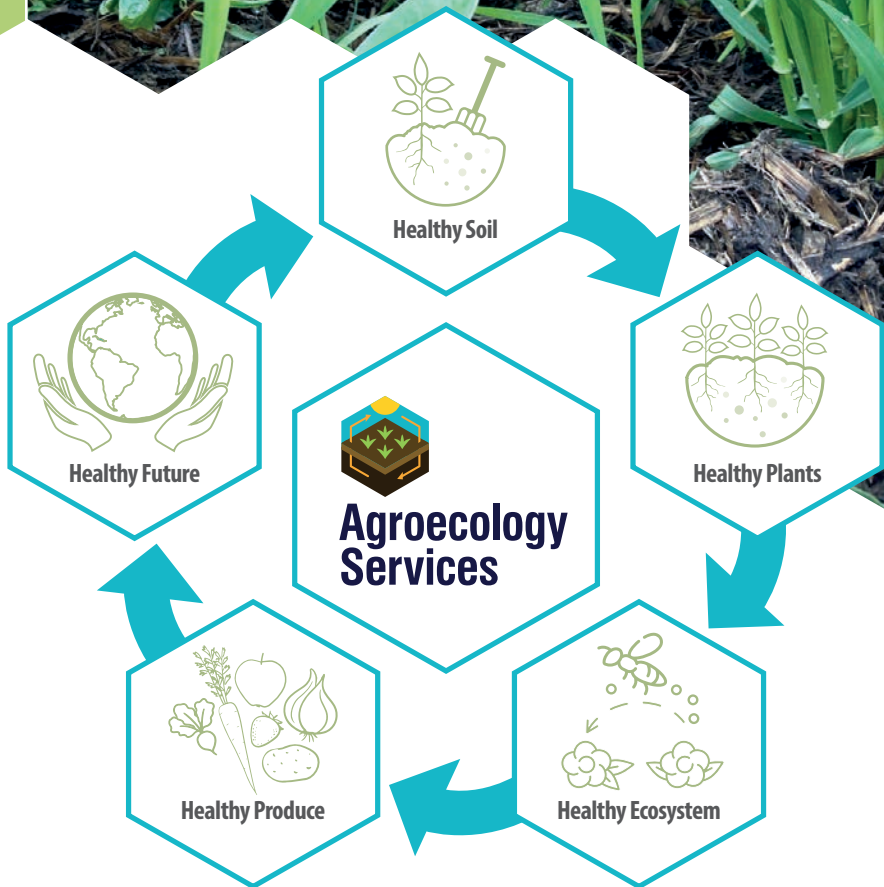
Applying ecological principles to agriculture

Our team of specialists are highly skilled at implementing farming systems which produce crops in partnership with nature.

Maximising soil and plant health puts you in a position to produce profitable crops with minimal, targeted inputs, whilst delivering an uplift in biodiversity.

Agroecological farming is more resilient, enhances natural resources and is future proof. It also has the support of government strategy which may create opportunities to access new markets and income streams.







Our advisors are highly skilled in helping clients implement the key principles of **Agroecological farming**.

Minimize disturbance

Reduce or eliminate tillage wherever possible.
Minimal and targeted use of chemical fertilisers and pesticides.

Always keep the soil covered

Never leave soil bare.
Return crop residues to or near the surface to armour the soil.
Utilise catch and cover crops.

Maintain living roots throughout the year

Roots help stabilise, structure and aerate the soil while providing drainage channels. They also feed soil organisms with carbon rich exudates.





Maximise diversity

Avoid monocultures by implementing a varied rotation. Utilise intercropping, companion cropping and variety blends. Integrate multispecies catch and cover crops.

Integrate livestock

Well managed grazing of livestock on forage and cover crops can enhance soil health further.

Keep an open mind

Be prepared to challenge conventional thinking and practices. Trial new ideas and techniques on farm to determine the best approach.

Agroecology links directly with other services for in-depth, holistic advice.

Environmental Services

Enhancing biodiversity and protecting natural resources is a key objective of agroecological farms. Our specialists can design farm environment plans that deliver these objectives and maximise the income of Agri-Environment schemes.

Soils

Developing a healthy soil is fundamental for any farm but it is complex and requires skill and dedication. Hutchinsons have some of the leading, most experienced soil specialists in the industry to help guide farmers in implementing changes.

Integrated Crop Management

Agroecology utilises all available cultural control methods and aims to maximise plant health to reduce reliance on inputs. Our ICM team are developing new forecasting and decision-making tools that allow you to make appropriate and targeted applications when necessary.





Enhanced crop nutrition

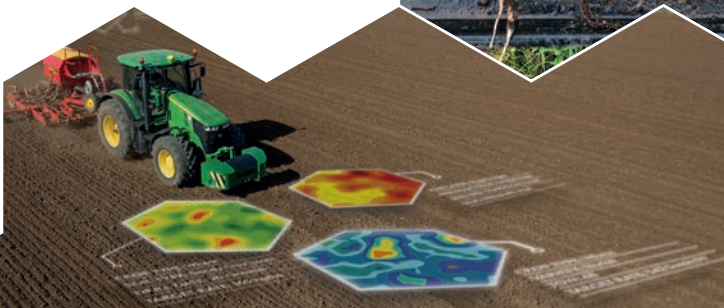
A healthy plant contains an adequate and balanced level of at least 16 elements. Findings from the Hutchinsons Healthy Soils analysis and plant sap analysis enable you to create strategies to optimise plant health and natural immunity.

Specialist cover crops

Our seed team have constructed a range of catch and cover crop mixes to suit all situations. These diverse mixes use reliable and high performing species to deliver key objectives and benefits and are designed for specific purposes.

Technology

Omnia digital farming provides a range of tools that can help to implement and manage an agroecological farming system.





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