



National Alliance for Regenerative Vegetable Oil Sector

A turning point for india's vegetable oil sector

India's edible-oil story stands at a decisive crossroads. The country imports nearly 60 percent of its edible oil requirement, spending over ₹1.5 lakh crore (USD 18 billion) annually. While oilseeds are grown across millions of hectares, declining soil health, climate stress, and low farm productivity have weakened domestic capacity. The need of the hour is not just to produce more oil—but to produce it sustainably, regeneratively, and inclusively.

This is where NARVOS – the National Alliance for Regenerative Vegetable Oil Sector – steps in as a transformative, multi-stakeholder platform to revive India's oilseed ecosystem from soil to shelf.

What is NARVOS

NARVOS is a collaborative alliance bringing together India's edible-oil industry associations, research institutions, farmer organisations, civil-society partners, and policymakers. It has been conceived to mainstream regenerative agriculture principles; soil health, biodiversity, water stewardship, and carbon balance, within the vegetable-oil value chain.



Launched in Bhopal in 2025, NARVOS represents a unified front where producers, processors, traders, and consumers converge on a single goal: a regenerative and self-sufficient vegetable-oil sector.

The platform draws inspiration from leading organisations including the Solvent Extractors' Association of India (SEA), which has already pledged buy-back support for regenerative produce through its 800-member companies. Solidaridad Network and several knowledge institutions are engaged in its formation and field implementation, alongside farmer groups and FPOs in Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Orisha and beyond.

Why regeneration matters



India's soil fertility crisis; with nearly half the farmland degraded—demands an urgent shift in the way we cultivate. Regenerative agriculture is not just an ecological response; it is an economic and social strategy. Studies indicate that regenerative practices can enhance yields by 20–40 percent, reduce input costs by up to 50 percent, and improve resilience against drought and pests. For millions of smallholders cultivating soybean, mustard, groundnut, sunflower, and oil palm, this is the pathway toward both profitability and sustainability. By embedding regenerative practices into the vegetable-oil value chain, NARVOS contributes directly to SDG 2 (Zero Hunger), SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption), SDG 13 (Climate Action) and SDG 15 (Life on Land).

A multi-stakeholder pathway for systemic change

NARVOS is designed around three core pillars:

1

Regenerative production at the farm level

Promotion of low-input, biodiversity-friendly practices such as minimal tillage, cover crops, and organic amendments.

Farmer Field Schools, FPO networks, and women-led learning clusters for inclusive capacity building.

2

Market and industry commitments

The SEA's buy-back mechanism ensures demand for regenerative produce, creating a market-pull model that rewards sustainable farmers.

Processors and brands are encouraged to integrate regenerative sourcing into procurement and CSR strategies.

3

Policy, knowledge, and innovation platform

NARVOS acts as a national dialogue forum to align policies, share evidence, and build partnerships. It connects with ICAR institutes, IISS, IIOR, IOIPR, and technical networks to generate locally suited solutions. Together, these pillars ensure that regenerative farming moves beyond pilot projects to a scalable national movement.

Solidaridad's role and vision



As a sustainability organisation, Solidaridad has been deeply engaged in promoting regenerative agriculture across India's major oilseed regions. Through programmes such as the Regenerative Mustard Mission, Smart Agri Model Farms, and the Good Farming – Good Food Initiative, Solidaridad is already working with FPOs, industry, and scientific institutions to demonstrate that regeneration is not just ecological—it is economically viable. NARVOS builds upon these foundations to provide a national coordination and advocacy platform, linking grassroots innovation with policy transformation.

Opportunities ahead



The promise of NARVOS lies in its ability to connect farmers' soil health with market and policy health.

- **For farmers:** higher yields, lower costs, soil regeneration, and better market access.
- **For industry:** secure, traceable, and sustainability-compliant supply chains that align with global deforestation-free mandates.
- **For policymakers:** a scalable national framework to strengthen India's edible-oil self-reliance and climate commitments.

The next step is to create state-level alliances, measurable targets (e.g., hectares under regenerative management, soil-carbon improvements), and digital traceability systems ensuring credibility and transparency.



Challenges and the way forward

Scaling regeneration across millions of smallholders will require long-term policy support, innovative finance, and institutional trust.

- Incentives must reward farmers for ecosystem services.
- Monitoring frameworks should verify real soil and climate outcomes.
- Public-private partnerships and donor collaboration will be vital to sustain momentum.

As India prepares for its next green revolution, this time rooted in soil health and shared value; NARVOS offers the framework, the spirit, and the partnerships needed to lead the way.

Regenerative agriculture is more than a farming practice; it is a philosophy of balance between nature, nutrition, and livelihood. Through NARVOS, India has the opportunity to transform its vegetable-oil sector into a global model of sustainability, inclusivity, and resilience. As the alliance grows, it reminds us that regeneration begins not only in the soil—but also in the collective will of those who choose to work together.



Solidaridad **SOPA**



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