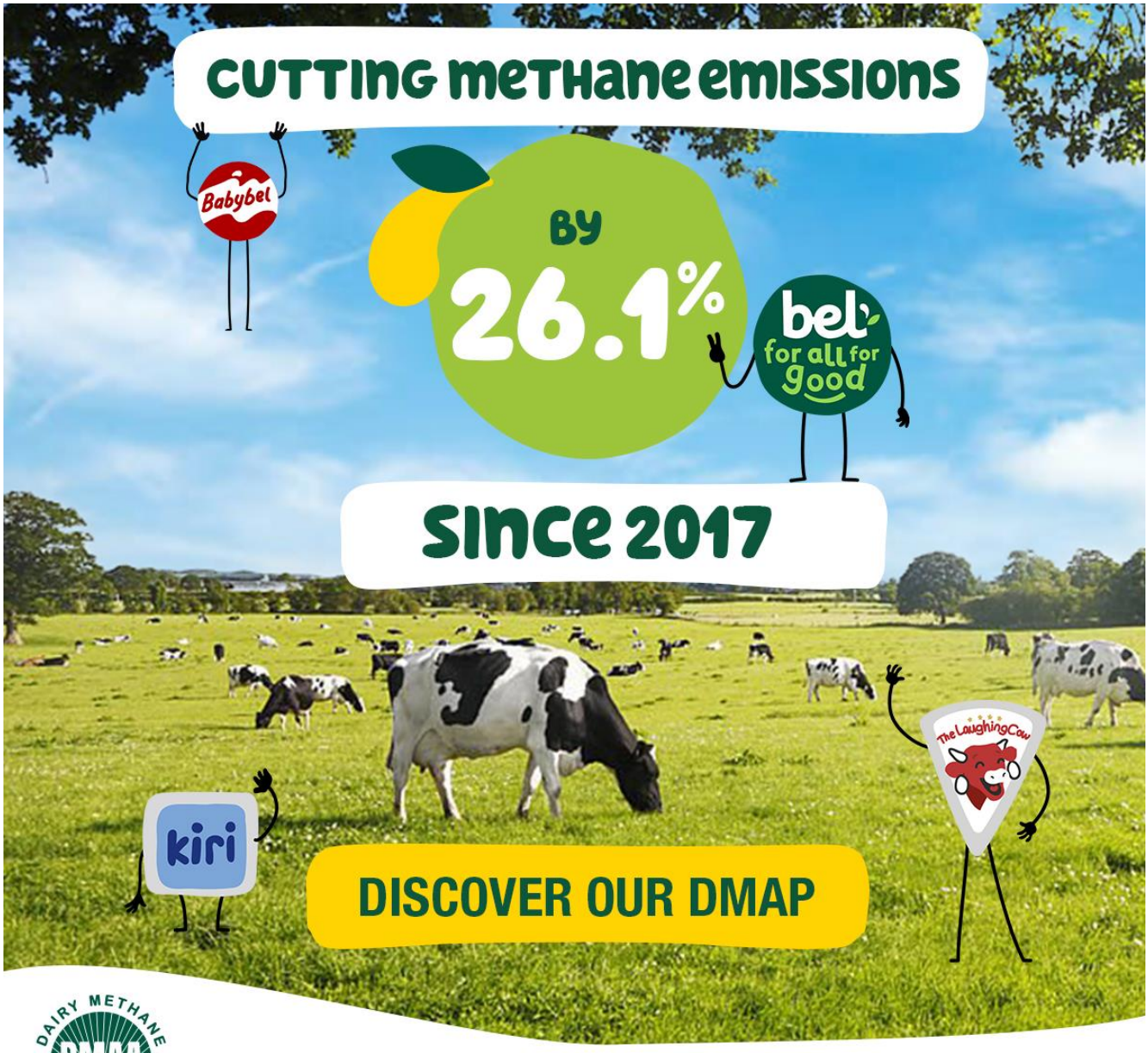

CUTTING METHANE EMISSIONS
BY
26.1%
SINCE 2017
DISCOVER OUR DMAP
Babybel
bel
for all for good
kiri
The Laughing Cow
DAIRY METHANE ACTION ALLIANCE
DMAA
BEL, DAIRY METHANE ACTION ALLIANCE MEMBER

Dairy Methane Action Plan (DMAP)

1 Part 1: Key Disclosures

Dairy methane disclosures

Environmental Defense Fund

Annual methane emissions for the past three years

Methane from dairy supply chain Mt CH_4/year (required)*

	2017 (Baseline)	2021	2022	2023	% Change from previous year	% Change from baseline
Total	55.115	44.871	43.738	40.744	-6.8%	-26.1%
Scope 1	-	-	-			
Scope 3	55.115	44.871	43.738	40.744	-6.8%	-26.1%

Total emissions

	Baseline	2021	2022	2023	% Change from previous year	% Change from baseline
Scope 1	112,893	123,042	113,694	103,590	-8.9%	-8.2%
Scope 3	4,278,641	3,836,991	3,908,627	3,732,789	-1.0%	-8.6%

Dairy methane as % of total emissions*

	Baseline	2021	2022	2023
Total	32.9	29.8	28.8%	28.6
Scope 1				
Scope 3	34.2	31.1	30%	29.5

*Due to reporting cycles, 2023 is the latest on farm data available.
*To calculate the quantity of methane for the baseline & the years till 2023, Bel has used the methane ratio of the 2023 reporting year which is based on the results of the carbon tool with on farm data.

Emissions reduction goals/targets

Company's emissions reduction target:

- Target:
  - Reduce Scope 1 and 2 emissions by 75.6% in absolute value by 2035 versus 2017;
  - Reduce Scope 3 emissions by 25% in absolute value by 2035 versus 2017.
  - Reduce the Methane footprint with 30% as in line with the climate targets. This will be updates as part of Bel's submission of SBTi FLAG.

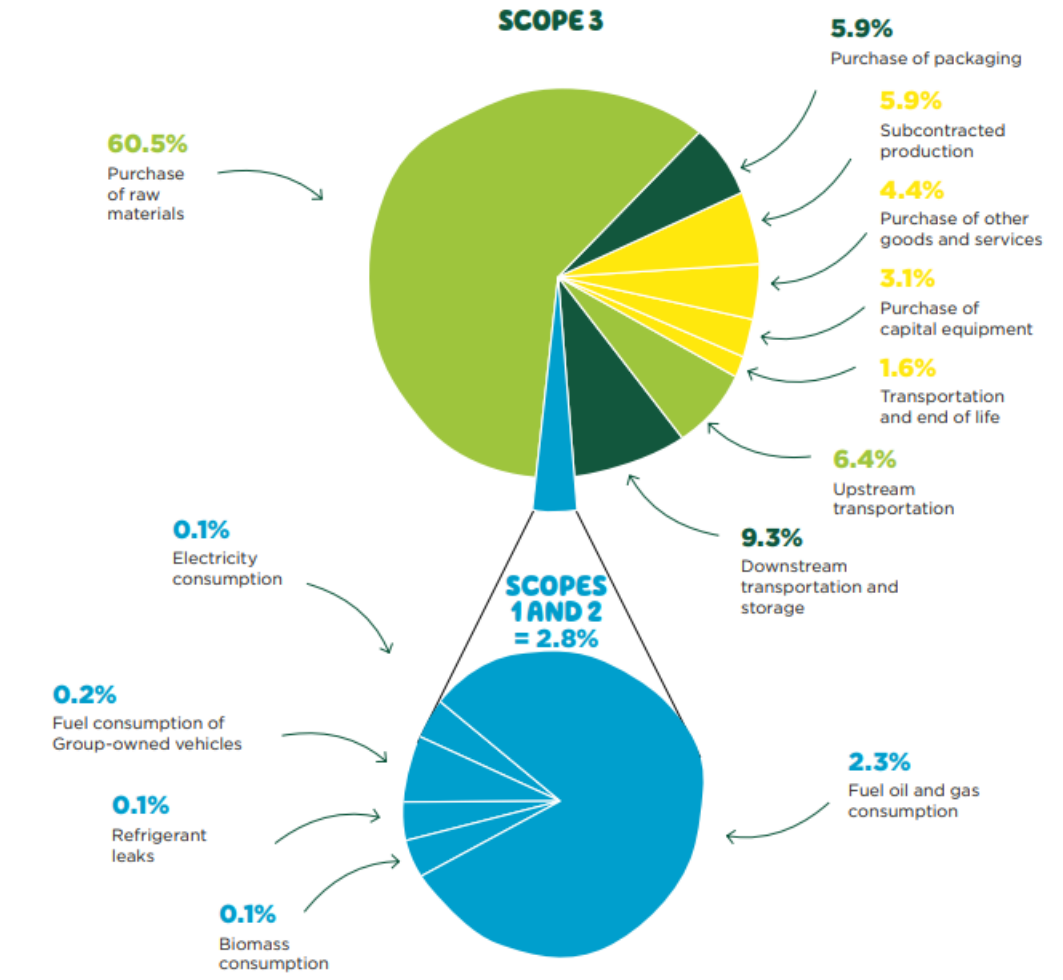
Year target was set: 2022, SBTi

Qualitative explanation of key sources of methane in company's operations and supply chain

Along the entire value chain, the main emissions sources are raw materials, transport, packaging and subcontracting. Our methane emissions come from raw material production in particular collected milk and dairy raw material due to enteric fermentation and manure. Of this collected milk 54% is methane whereas 81.4% is enteric methane.

[bel-rafi-2024-vdef-en.pdf]

Carbon footprint by emissions source(1)



In 2024, Scopes 1 and 2 Greenhouse Gas emissions stood at 104,686 metric tons eq. CO_2, i.e., a reduction of 42% compared to 2017, the base year. This reduction stemmed primarily from lower Scope 2 emissions in 2024 due to the consumption of more renewable energy compared to 2023.

2 PART 2: STRATEGIES TO REDUCE DAIRY METHANE EMISSIONS

FARMER AND SUPPLIER ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY

Methane sources addressed

Methane from enteric & manure for fluid milk sourced from the direct Upstream Dairy; France, Portugal mainland & Azores, USA, Slovakia, Iran, Poland & Canada for our healthy dairy snack.

Context for strategy implementation

✓ Key business changes from strategy implementation

Requiring our partner farmers to reduce methane emissions of the dairy production.

✓ How this strategy will address material physical and transition climate-related risks to the company

The choice of agricultural raw materials used in our products is a key contributor to the Group's carbon footprint. Bel is implementing actions to make agricultural production more resilient which also addresses the risk raised in the scenario analysis of the risk to certain raw materials:
› Promote virtuous agricultural practices by supporting our partners farmers in the implementation of agricultural practices which will reduce their carbon footprint whereas enteric & manure methane will have the biggest impact and thus the first focus, thinking about farm efficiency, herd management and using methane inhibitors alongside other regenerative practices pasture grazing, soil rotation, plant cover, no-till, etc.) and in the development of agroforestry (planting of hedgerows, wooded strips, etc.);
› accelerate the development and marketing of products containing alternative sources of protein, in addition to its traditional dairy product ranges;
› fight against food waste and losses at every point along the value chain in order to maximize the value of each input.

The scenario analysis has given credence to the financial risks posed by Climate change and therefore the importance to meet Bel's GHG reduction targets due to impact shown from Carbon tax risks and also physical risk impacts as well as the ambition for Regenerative Agriculture. As such Bel has defined a GHG emissions reduction trajectory that covers its entire value chain (Scopes 1, 2 and 3) and is in line with the Paris Agreement to limit global warming to 1.5C. At the same time, the Group is committed to achieving carbon neutrality across its entire value chain by 2050. The priority of the Group's teams is to avoid and reduce GHG emissions to reduce total emissions to their lowest possible level.

✓ Regions where interventions will be implemented

France, Portugal mainland & Azores, USA, Slovakia, Iran, Poland & Canada

✓ Scope, scale, and coverage across business

Methane footprint of dairy raw mat (Raw Milk + other dairy ingredients) is 28.6% of total Bel's emissions, including 1 billion liter of milk = +- 1200 partner farmers.

✓ Business units involved

Global & local milk teams
Sustainability team on corporate level.
Public Affair Team
R&D team to review state of the art about methane mitigation solutions
Bel Ventures on corporate level who support the Bel Group on the innovation strategy
Communication Team
Marketing teams communicating on our commitments to farmers and sustainable agriculture to the consumers and organizing operation to promote agricultural practices (for instance, Kiri operation to promote agroforestry and biodiversity preservation).

✓ Industry, government, and/or NGO groups engaged

- Dairy industry
- CFA & SAI platform
- Earthworm foundation & Biosphere
- Government
- WWF & CIWF
- ROOT global

✓ Current status of strategy

Since 2019, Bel Group has started with Primary data collections at farms with the modeling emission tools; CoolFarmtool, CAP2ER (France) & Farm E.S (USA).
In 2021, we did a first Methan'action project to identify the levers to activate with our Farmer partners to reduce our Carbon footprint and reach our SBTi targets, (1.5 degree)
Each Dairy basin within our Upstream Dairy have built their reduction roadmap including the actions to reduce CO_2 & methane.
Doing Carbon footprint assessment and giving farmers advise to reduce their Carbon footprint was the first step of Bel's strategy.
This resulted in a change from generic towards primary data which give a first reduction and also our farmers are increasing their productivity which also affected the carbon footprint positively. This in total is around 20% for the total methane emissions between 2017 and 2023.
Since July 2023, we are deploying Bovaer in Slovakia, and we have started Bovaer in France in June 2025 as part of the Carbon 2.0 plan. Part if this new plan is the use of linseed to mitigate enteric methane. We have a roll-out plan towards 2035 to scale the positive impact of methane inhibitors.
This could give a reduction about 30% of methane, beside this we will continue working with our farmers to reduce on their carbon footprint by implementing actions on farm efficiency, herd management, feeding strategy & regenerative practices. Also, joining the DMAA will accelerate the innovations to reduce the methane footprint.

Action items and implementation timeline and milestones

✓ **Concrete actions to progress strategy (1)**

Primary data collection (carbon & methane footprint) at farm

- Start date

The Bel Group has 9 Dairy basins who started doing carbon footprint assessments from 2019

- Key performance indicators (KPIs) to indicate success or failure

Succes:
By 2025, 100% of our farms will have a first carbon assessment
Our goal is to assess our farmers each year.
By 2026 50% of our farmers will have a 2nd carbon assessment

Failure:
Motivation of farm
Unavailable farm data
Carbon tool not updated or not available

- Expected completion date

100% of Bel farms have a first diagnostic by 2025
Since June 2025, 2/3 of French farms received monthly their methane footprint according to unsaturated fatty acids analysis of the milk

Other recommended details

✓ Optional – Estimated emissions reductions for individual interventions (can be reported here or separately in Part 5)

10% reduction in CO_2eq change from generic to specific data

✓ Optional – Investments and capital expenditure alignment (can be reported here or separately in Part 5)

Resources to visit + Carbon tool

✓ Concrete actions to progress strategy (2)

Milk programs at farm level to promote; Productivity + herd management + manure management

All dairy basins will implement a Carbon footprint action plan linked to the Carbon footprint assessment

All dairy basins: Farmers are part of Regenerative agriculture program which will will improve manure management and overall farm management.

Portugal Azores: Using Happy Cows progam which promote farmers to improve on five pillars; sustainable production (CO_2) animal welfare, grazing and quality & safety

France APBO; Farm milk payment program → Le Groupe Bel - APBO and Bel Group enhance milk price, increase collection volumes and accelerate decarbonization Initiatives for 2025

Portugal Mainland: Farm milk payment which focus on continues improvement of three areas: Planet, Animals & Farmer for each of the areas farmers receives points linked to incentives for certain tresholds. Based on Cool farm tool assessment they will look at CO_2 per KG of milk but also age at first calving.

- Start date

From 2015 we have the Happy Cows program in Portugal Azores,
From 2019 Carbon footprint action plan at farm level for all our dairy basins
From 2021 Regenerative pilot which is linked to Manure management starting in Portugal, US and France.
From 2025 we have started a farm milk payment program in France & Portugal mainland

- Key performance indicators (KPIs) to indicate success or failure

Succes:
100% of Azores milk collection is participating in Happy Cow program
100% Bel farms received an Action plan to reduce its carbon footprint
Change of practices by farms participating in Farm milk payment program
100% of our farms are part of the regenerative program by 2030.

Failure:
Too expensive to valorize the additional payment to the farms.
No motivation of farmer to change

- Expected completion date

100% of the farms received an action plan by 2028
Happy cow program is in use
Farm milk payment program in France & Portugal in use by 2025
100% of our partner farmers are part of the Regenerative program in 2030

Other recommended details

✓ Optional – Estimated emissions reductions for individual interventions (can be reported here or separately in Part 5)

15% reduction in CO_2eq

✓ Optional – Investments and capital expenditure alignment (can be reported here or separately in Part 5)

Resources to visit / train farm
Incentive to pay program
Consultants to advice farms

✓ **Concrete actions to progress strategy (3)**

Bovaer implementation

▪ Start date

After a pilot phase in 2021 & 2022 we have launched Bovaer in 2023 in Slovakia, in 2024/2025 in France and in July 2025 in USA.

▪ Key performance indicators (KPIs) to indicate success or failure

Succes:
Bovaer deployment where the product is valuable & relevant

Failure:
No product available
Low feed efficiency to be profitable
Consumers refuse the product

▪ Expected completion date

2035

Other recommended details

✓ Optional – Estimated emissions reductions for individual interventions (can be reported here or separately in Part 5)

10% reduction in CO_2eq

✓ Optional – Investments and capital expenditure alignment (can be reported here or separately in Part 5)

Incentives = 1ct per litr of milk * 1 billion liter of milk

INNOVATION STRATEGY

Methane sources addressed

Methane from Raw Dairy material sourced towards our factories

Context for strategy implementation

- Key business changes from strategy implementation

Within the BEL group, BEL Ventures' team develops transformative & innovative partnerships with startups to position BEL as today's pioneer and tomorrow's leader towards a healthier and more sustainable food system.

BEL Ventures works hand in hand with the Milk Purchasing team and the CSR team on three main areas that can imply methane reduction:

(i) to foster the adoption by BEL's farmer partners of more sustainable and regenerative practices,
(ii) to improve impact data measurement at farm level, and
(iii) to reduce enteric fermentation & improve manure management.

- How this strategy will address material physical and transition climate-related risks to the company

See farmer & supplier engagement

- Regions where interventions will be implemented

See farmer & supplier engagement

- Business units involved

See farmer & supplier engagement

- Industry, government, and/or NGO groups engaged

Bel is building its carbon strategy with the ambition of having a positive impact on its entire value chain, which requires all stakeholders to be mobilized.
The Group carries out awareness, raising actions for its external stakeholders and encourages the co-construction of action plans to share efforts with its partners:
- by working with the WWF France since 2012 to reduce the environmental impact linked to the dairy upstream including good practices to reduce methane emissions
- by exchanging with partner producers and suppliers to support them in their transition
- by creating joint GHG reduction strategies with its customers

- Current status of strategy

Preparing roadmap

Action items and implementation timeline and milestones

For each action item, complete the information below.

- Concrete actions to progress strategy

Building overview of potential innovations & partners
Since 2016, we've gone beyond our traditional cheese territory by acquiring MOM, a fruit compote specialist, and launching plant-based alternatives for our core brands: Boursin®, The Laughing Cow®, and Babybel®.
In addition, since the creation of Bel Ventures in 2022, Bel has partnered with numerous startups that address its significant strategic challenges. These partnerships enable Bel to reduce its environmental footprint while inventing the products of tomorrow. With startups Standing Ovation, Superbrewed and Perfect Day, the Group is developing breakthrough innovations by incorporating ingredients that harness the full potential of biotechnology and fermentation
In 2023, it also entered into an R&D agreement with Climax Foods Inc., a US startup. Using artificial intelligence and machine learning tools, the ambition here is to develop plant-based recipes for brands like The Laughing Cow® and Babybel® that are entirely similar in taste and texture to traditional cheese products. In 2024, on the occasion of the thirtieth anniversary of its RID center in Vendome, Bel announced a new partnership with the agri-food group Avril, the specialist of Lallemand yeast, and the Portial laboratory, for a project on fermentation, a key building block for a plant-based alternative to cheeses in the future, for the design of plant-based alternatives to cheese.
Compared to 2017, GHG emissions linked to raw materials were down by -827 Kt CO2 as an absolute value, i.e. -26% in 2024. This reduction is linked to the greening of the Group's offering, and to the improvement of the carbon impact of the dairy sector.

- Key performance indicators (KPIs) to indicate success or failure

Having a roadmap by 2026 which will included the KPI's

PUBLIC POLICY ADVOCACY STRATEGY

Methane sources addressed

Methane from Raw Dairy material sourced towards our factories

Context for strategy implementation

- How this strategy will address material physical and transition climate-related risks to the company

See farmer & supplier engagement

- Industry, government, and/or NGO groups engaged

Danone, Arla, National assembly, Part of panel of experts and NGOS such as "Solid grounds", Planet Score, but also academics, experts from the IPCC.
CNIEL

- Regions where interventions will be implemented

Europe

- Current status of strategy

Discovering + first meeting with EU Commission.

Action items and implementation timeline and milestones

For each action item, complete the information below.

- Specific policies supported

We have sent a letter to the EU Commissioner for Agriculture and Food, Christophe Hansen and will have a meeting with him and his team to ask for support in motivating other players along the value chain to reduce their methane footprint by supporting the farmers. Also, financial support & Bureaucratic simplification to accelerate the transition is key for the Bel Group.

- Trade groups engaged

- Participation in regulatory processes

3 PART 3: ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS FOR DMAP

Barriers and how the DMAP will address them
✓ Barriers that prevent farmers and suppliers from adopting near-term methane mitigation solutions and how the company will address these barriers
Adaption of new practices or innovation are difficult for farmers as the margins are small. In this situation Bel is supporting the farmers firstly with on farm technical support which support the farm to be more efficient which reduce the carbon footprint at first. No agronomic direct benefits for the farmer of using methane inhibitors, which Bel will address by compensating the cost for the farmer for an average amount. This means that some farmers who are less efficient could not join for those farmers we will support them with farm technical advice. At the moment Bel is investing into this ambition to decrease the Methane footprint, without valorization possible in the market of the finished product. In the meantime, Bel is looking for partnership to join forces and to share the cost. Some solutions are not in favor of consumers, Bel will only use verified solutions which do not have any influence on the Dairy cows or the final product. As long as the consumers are not in favor of the product Bel will be very careful in their communication.
Systemic challenges that may limit near-term implementation
• Systemic challenges that limit scope of methane mitigation and intent to monitor
Bel will only use verified and commercialized solutions to reduce Upstream dairy methane.
Just transition considerations
• Actions taken or will be taken to ensure a just transition and to address risks of transition to suppliers, including farmers and farmworkers, customers, and at-risk communities
In different countries/Dairy basins, Bel is using premiums on top of the milk price to support practices which reduces the carbon footprint. Beside the milk price Bel finances direct cost or support on farm.
• Activities to support your existing workforce, suppliers, and vulnerable customers during transition *[e.g., Sharing the cost of transition to low methane practices, considering food affordability, etc.]*
• Actions to consult and implement feedback from your workforce, suppliers, and impacted communities

Synergies with other sustainability programs
• Synergies of the DMAP with other sustainability goals
In 2012, Bel partnered with WWF France to reduce our impact on the environment. This partnership was instrumental in laying the foundations for the Upstream Dairy Charter in 2018. This comprehensive approach promotes on-the-ground action covering our entire dairy supply chain. In 2023, after several years of learning and fieldwork, we revised our Charter to align our actions with three key areas: farmers/partners, animal welfare and regenerative agriculture. All initiatives implemented within these key areas contribute to our new net zero pathway validated by the SBTi (Science Based Targets initiative) to limit temperature rises to less than +1.5°C. If you would like to have more info → Le Groupe Bel - Shaping a sustainable dairy industry
Other recommended details
✓ Optional – Disclosure of non-dairy methane emissions and plans to address them
✓ Optional – Long-term planning for methane reduction (beyond 5-10 years)