

# What are you going to do?

Relieve the soil, that is what it's all about

- track systems produce far lower soil pressure, so there is no damage to underlying soil layers
- year-round use of track systems increases root development and leads to a yield increase of up to 15% in just a few years
- creating a better soil life will facilitate a faster recovery of natural soil balance



# The Zuidberg promise



# Care for the soil

Soil-protecting track systems

## Practical experience



### Adriaan Boudeling - Potato farmer

'At first we operated with a John Deere 8420T track tractor because we wanted more power, and to deliver power you need a bigger area of contact with the soil surface. The drawbacks of our previous track system were vibration and the absence of a differential. These days, we mount a wheeled tractor on the spring-loaded tracks whenever our operations call for it. The tractor is working on the tracks for about 850 hours of its 1,000 operating hours each year. Conversion only takes a couple of hours.'



### Gerjan Voshart - Contractor

'It's all about the soil, and that's every farmer's focus. After all, agriculture cannot exist without sound soils. We have noticed that our customers are very aware of the need for improved soil management. They are explicitly asking us to bring our beet harvester on tracks for harvesting.'

Soils are permanently compacted and, hence, deserve more attention. Zuidberg consequently began to develop rubber crawler tracks in 2011. They deliver up to 400% more soil surface contact than rubber tyres. This results in a significant reduction in soil pressure, hence protecting the subsoil.

### A reliable system

Zuidberg has continued development of this sustainable solution in a professional manner, making use of its own facilities to produce rubber crawler tracks. Extensive research into the perfect combination of drive, construction and rubber tracks has resulted in an utterly reliable system.

### Yield increase up to 15%

Year-round use of track systems increases root development and leads to a yield increase of up to 15% in just a few years. Tracks are available for a wide variety of harvesting machines and almost any tractor type. Even customised solutions can be provided. Using a track system will extend the life of any tractor and enables more versatile operation while reducing the detrimental impact on soil quality.

### Quick exchange

The tracks are characterised by their compact design and interchangeability, making them deployable for small and large tractors alike, as well as for heavy-duty harvesting machines. It takes only a few hours to install the tracks underneath the tractor, and the installation is reversible, leaving the tractor suitable for re-fitting pneumatic tyres.

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TRACKS

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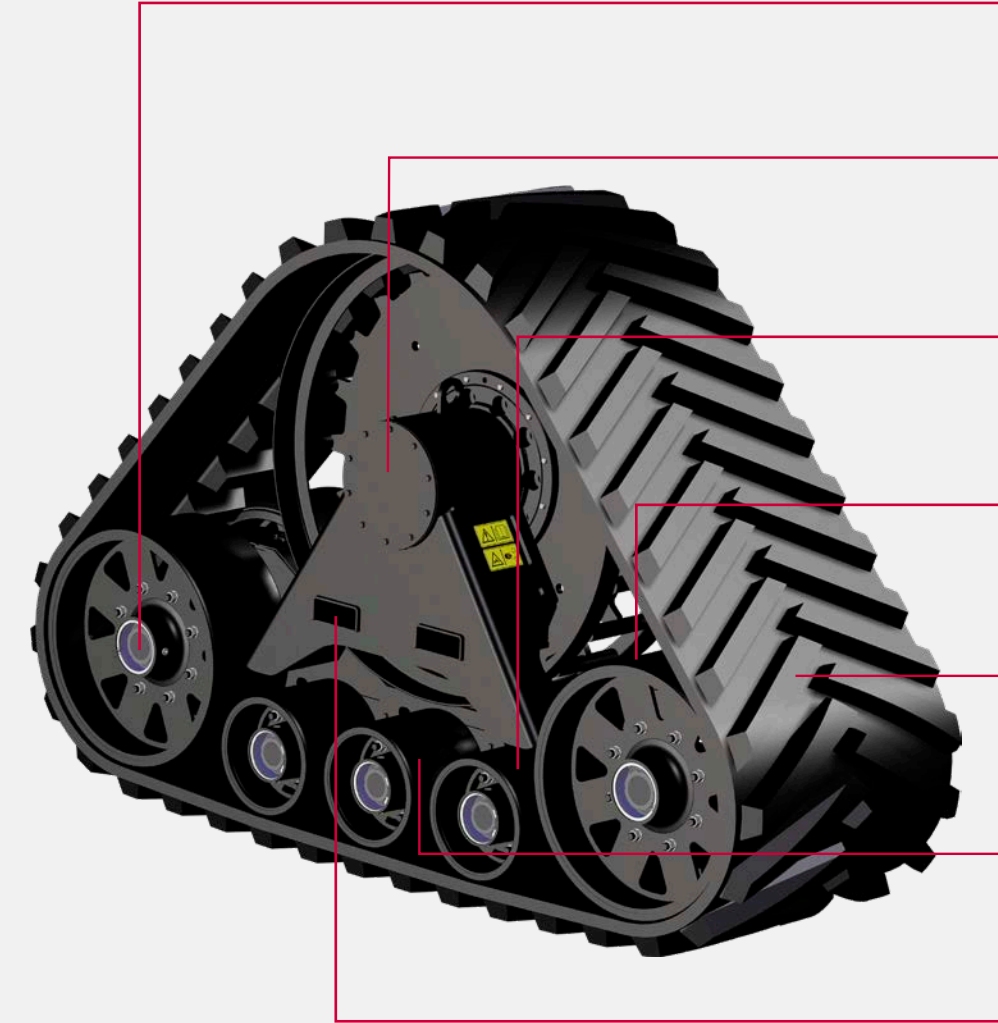
# The soil is vulnerable

# Zuidberg your partner

# A summary of the benefits



In the face of revived attention on soil and soil life, Zuidberg - together with its growers - is looking to work jointly on worldwide sustainable improvements to soil quality. This is not a choice - it's a mission, in which Zuidberg is taking its own share of responsibility by developing systems and products which will contribute towards the overall process.



- Heavy-duty axles and wheels, suitable for various applications
- Rapidly interchangeable with standard wheels for optimum flexibility
- 2, 3 or 4 intermediate axles to ensure the desired contact surface
- Easy to maintain thanks to the central greasing system and oil level check
- 61, 76 or 92 cm (24, 30 or 36 inches) wide rubber tracks for maximum bearing capacity
- Fitted with a bogie system for optimal comfort and minimum wear and tear on the rubber tracks
- Recesses in the frame to accommodate the forks of a fork-lift truck ensure easy assembly and disassembly and minimise standstill

We have managed to respond to the global need for food by applying scale enhancement and culture intensification. In doing so, however, the importance of our soil only occupied a secondary position. Meanwhile, the subsoil of a half of the Dutch soils is compacted on a permanent basis. Soil vulnerability has become increasingly apparent, especially now that the more extreme forms of climate change have manifested themselves. The current situation simply cannot continue...

**A new soil**  
Sustainable food production requires both sustainable soil management and a different way of thinking and assuming responsibility. The path towards solutions is clear:

- reducing soil pressure is a necessity
- targeting lower soil compaction
- opting for improved soil life

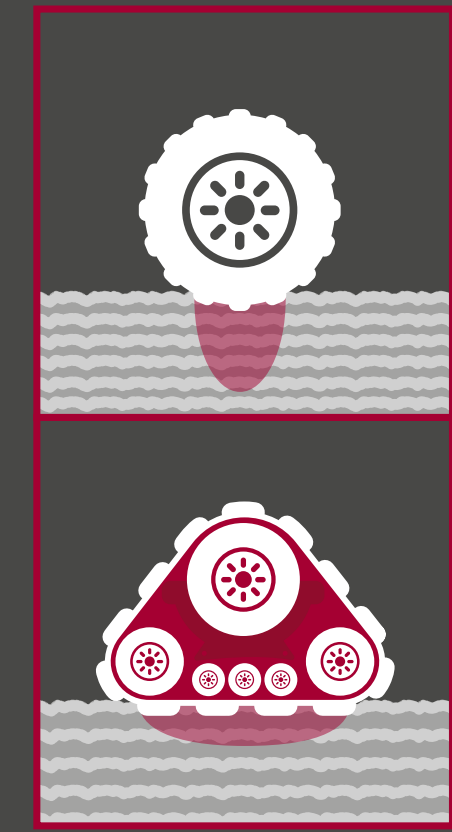
The result:  
• 15% higher crop yields when using tracks throughout the year

**Reduced soil stress thanks to rubber tracks**  
Rubber tracks have a larger soil surface and lower soil stress than pneumatic tyres. Rubber tracks are therefore more soil-friendly than pneumatic tyres. Compaction in the upper soil layers is therefore reduced. The differences between rubber tracks and pneumatic tyres are still measurable through deeper soil analysis. It has been demonstrated that the soil is less compacted at all depths after rubber tracks have been used, in comparison with pneumatic tyres.

- Important for you**
1. Rubber tracks cause less soil compaction: up to 44%\* less as compared to special low-pressure tyres (measured in kg/cm<sup>2</sup> at a depth of 20 cm ).
  2. Compaction in the lower soil layers cannot be solved by using rubber tracks alone; the overall weight of machines will also need to be reduced.

Source: Wageningen University & Research, Aeres Hogeschool and the Swedish University of Uppsala.

Up to 44% less pressure using rubber tracks



The Zuidberg bogie system ensures maximal driving comfort and stability. This independent system optimises weight distribution, thus reducing wear and tear on both machine and tracks.

