



F E F A C

## SOY SOLUTIONS FOR THE EUROPEAN AGRIFOOD SECTOR

Soy is an important ingredient for many types of foods we consume every day. Some food products contain soy (soybean oil, protein, lecithin) and others are produced by using soy (e.g. as animal feed for the production of milk, eggs and meat).

Although most soybean growers work in accordance with “good agricultural practice”, some soybean cultivation is linked to issues like deforestation, human rights violations and conflicts about land ownership. Companies in diverse agri-food supply chains are challenged to ban such unwanted practices from their supply chains whilst operating in a commodity environment.

The European feed industry, represented by FEAC, has taken the initiative to support these companies by enabling retailers, food manufacturers and food service companies to move to a position which will eradicate these unwanted practices related to soy from their supply chains.



## MARKET TRANSPARENCY

In order to tackle sustainability challenges in soy cultivation, an abundance of responsible soy schemes has been developed. Due to this, deciding under which scheme to buy soy is quite difficult for individual companies.

Therefore, FEFAC took the initiative to develop the “FEFAC Soy Sourcing Guidelines”. These include all major ethical, social and environmental issues that should be covered by schemes for responsible soy. In addition, FEFAC asked the International Trade Centre (ITC) - a

WTO-UN subsidiary body - to independently check which schemes comply with the FEFAC Soy Sourcing Guidelines. All compliant schemes can be found on the website [www.standardsmap.org/fefac](http://www.standardsmap.org/fefac).

Retailers, food manufacturers or food service companies requiring responsibly produced soy for their food products should include the demand to their suppliers that all soy used in the supply chain has to be compliant with the FEFAC Soy Sourcing Guidelines.

## COMPREHENSIVE SET OF SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL CRITERIA

The FEFAC Soy Sourcing Guidelines consist of a comprehensive set of 59 criteria, segmented into legal compliance, responsible working conditions, environmental responsibility, good agricultural practices, respect for land rights and maintaining good community relations. In addition, the Guidelines define verification requirements to check whether a specific scheme has the systems and procedures in place to guarantee that the soy is indeed produced in a responsible manner.



# FEFAC'S APPROACH AND ZERO DEFORESTATION COMMITMENTS

Many companies have made long-term public commitments towards zero deforestation. These commitments have an impact on the soy they want to buy. With its Guidelines, FEFAC's approach contributes to these commitments by focusing on legal compliance for the expansion of soy production. This is a crucial first step towards further forest protection, and an approach that is broadly accepted in the countries of origin.



## ALIGNMENT WITH CONSUMER GOODS FORUM

The Consumer Goods Forum, representing all major retailers and consumer goods manufacturers globally, recently revised its recommendation for sourcing responsible soy and included the FEFAC Soy Guidelines as an important step in their twin-track approach towards achieving zero net deforestation.

## IN SUMMARY

### WHY?

Companies are increasingly under pressure to make sure there are no sustainability issues in their supply chains. For soy - a commodity that is indirectly or directly related to many food products - an abundance of responsible soy schemes is available. This makes it hard for companies to choose and to assess the credibility of each of these schemes. The newly introduced FEFAC Soy Sourcing Guidelines aims to bring clarity to the market on this.

### HOW?

The FEFAC Soy Sourcing Guidelines and the ITC benchmarking system bring transparency to the market by assessing whether existing (or new) responsible soy schemes tackle all major environmental and social criteria of the Guidelines in a credible manner.

### WHAT?

If you want to make sure your soy supply chain is free from undesired practices, and you want to take concrete steps towards long-term zero deforestation commitments, you can ask your suppliers to source FEFAC compliant soy as soon as possible. You can find all the approved schemes on [www.standardsmap.org/fefac](http://www.standardsmap.org/fefac).