



Soya policy

Background

Soy (or soya) has become an important source of nutritious protein. We mainly consume it via meat products (it is a common feed in mass livestock production). But it's also increasingly part of plant-based diets. With global demand for meat still increasing, soy production has risen significantly, increasing pressure on forests and fragile ecosystems.

There has been a large expansion in soya cultivation especially in South America. The clearing of sensitive biomes (Amazon and Cerrado) especially in Brazil has been implicated in the loss of global biodiversity and in increasing greenhouse gas emissions associated with land use change.

Asda has supported actions to reduce deforestation. We were one of the original signatories to the Soy Moratorium which continues to moderate soya cultivation expansion policy in the Amazon and are signatories of the Cerrado Manifesto.

Approach

All suppliers who use meat, fish, egg or milk based ingredients (excluding stocks and bouillons) or products or soya as an ingredient (excluding soya lecithin, emulsifiers and flavourings) in their Asda brand products must ensure that the soya they source either as an ingredient or animal feed is deforestation (both legal and illegal) and conversion free that respects human rights with a fixed cut off date of January 2020 as defined by the Accountability Framework initiative and monitored by a deforestation and conversion monitoring, reporting and verification system by December 2023.

The Monitoring, reporting and verification system must cover;

- % of your suppliers with a plan in place to address transparency
- % of your suppliers with matching company commitments
- % of your suppliers with a MRV system in place
- % of your suppliers with 80% of their volume meeting their company commitment
- % of your total volume of soya that can be traced to trader

Additionally livestock producers direct & indirect must report

- Volume of soya in the supply chain and relevant feed manufacturers and/or soy traders
- Traceability of soya to subnational level
- % of soya considered high risk

Suppliers must make a public commitment on their company website to sourcing deforestation and conversion free soya that respects human rights with a fixed cut off date of January 2020.

Suppliers should cascade these commitments through their supply chain.



Additionally, suppliers of fresh meat, fish, shell eggs and milk products should be able to trace soya in their supply chain to country and state/region of origin. These suppliers are required to cover their soya usage by independent sustainability certification. Asda accepts any scheme benchmarked against the FEFAC soy sourcing guidelines (2021) with desired criterion 34. Which covers the conversion of natural vegetation with a fixed cut off date of 2020.

Suppliers should be working towards physical sources of certification (either mass balance or segregated) by no later than December 2025.

Supplier performance will be monitored annually through a supplier survey completed in collaboration with other UK retailers.

Glossary

Deforestation: Loss of natural forest as a result of i) conversion to agriculture or other non-forest land use; ii) conversion to a tree plantation; or iii) severe and sustained degradation

Conversion: Change of a natural ecosystem to another land use or profound change in a natural ecosystem's species composition, structure, or function)