

FACTSHEET FEFAC SOY SOURCING GUIDELINES 2021



FEFAC Soy Sourcing Guidelines 2021:

- **73 criteria in total, with 54 essential and 19 desired criteria**
 -Covering Responsible Working Conditions, Environmental Responsibility, Good Agricultural Practices, Respect for Legal Use of Land, Protection of Community Relations
 -All essential criteria must be met, in addition 8 out of 19 desired criteria must be met
- **Includes a desired criterion on 'conversion-free soy'**
 -Updated Requirements on verification and transparency
- **Complemented by a FEFAC customised webpage on ITC Sustainability Map**

In February 2021 FEFAC released an upgraded version of its Soy Sourcing Guidelines, initially presented in 2015. The Soy Sourcing Guidelines 2021 containing a large set of criteria on agricultural, environmental and social items, representing the European feed industry's requirements for responsible soy. They are designed to support a benchmarking programme for existing responsible soy schemes and programmes offering responsible soy to the European feed market. Soy scheme owners can voluntarily apply to be benchmarked against the FEFAC Soy Sourcing Guidelines in order to check whether their programme meets the criteria and verification requirements. This independent benchmark programme is managed by ITC (International Trade Centre)

Responsible soy schemes and programmes can now apply for (re-)benchmarking against the FEFAC Soy Sourcing Guidelines. FEFAC expects the upgraded webpage on ITC Sustainability Map, with the first 'batch' of compliant schemes, to be fully operational by May 2021. FEFAC aims to facilitate the mainstream market transition of sustainable and conversion-free soy supply chains by providing market transparency on available responsible soy offers in the market from any of the schemes willing to be benchmarked against the SSG Guidelines.



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CONVERSION-FREE SOY

Soy sourced from regions with a negligible conversion risk of natural eco-systems and soy sourced under biome-based contractual agreements (e.g. Amazon Soy Moratorium) are generally considered to be 'conversion-free' soy origins. FEFAC recognises that responsible soy schemes and programmes do provide credible, and verifiable supply conversion-free soy products to the European feed market, excluding both legal and illegal conversion.

The FEFAC Soy Sourcing Guidelines 2021 include a new innovative feature that allows responsible soy standards and programmes to voluntarily and optionally benchmark themselves against a new desired criterion, which is aligned with the definitional framework of the Accountability Framework Initiative.

DESIRED CRITERION 34

No soy is produced in converted natural ecosystems (natural forest, native grasslands, wetlands, swamps, peatlands, savannas, steep slopes and riparian areas) after a specific cut-off date.

Responsible soy schemes and programmes with credible and verifiable assurances demonstrating that the respective soy cultivation did not drive conversion of natural eco-systems are displayed in a Transparency Tool on the FEFAC webpage on ITC Sustainability Map (upgraded version expected to be ready by May 2021). The soy schemes and programmes will be displayed with their respective cut-off dates and chain of custody options.

WHY A DESIRED CRITERION ON CONVERSION-FREE SOY?

FEFAC has currently no mandate to go beyond the legality principle on this important criterion. However, the new conversion-free soy qualification mechanism in the Guidelines provides an innovative approach in the ITC managed benchmarking system. Moving to the practical implementation may trigger the need for technical corrections, which is more convenient to adapt in the optional setting. FEFAC considers that the new Transparency Tool will deliver additional market transparency on existing market offers for conversion-free soy, provided by responsible soy schemes and programmes.

