

The UK Roundtable on Sustainable Soya

Major UK retailers and food industry associations have asked for government support in convening the soya industry to address growing concerns about the link between soya and tropical deforestation. With inputs from DFID and Defra, the UK's Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy is convening the **UK Roundtable on Sustainable Soya**.

The UK government is a signatory to the New York Declaration on Forests and the Amsterdam Declarations and is strongly committed to supporting a transition to sustainable supply chains for agricultural commodities which are currently associated with deforestation.

The **UK Roundtable on Sustainable Soya** aims to bring together significant players in the UK soya market, providing a pre-competitive space for companies and industry associations to work together to achieve a shared goal of a secure, resilient, sustainable supply of soya to the UK, with joint progress monitoring and reporting.

In recognition of the need to capture both the growing imperative for action from business and the political support for accelerated progress, the first UK Roundtable on Sustainable Soya will take place on the **19th March 2018** at The Royal Society, London.

Companies commit to accelerating progress on sustainable soya

The expansion of soya production in South America has been associated with deforestation and other natural habitat destruction, leading to biodiversity loss and impacts on local communities. At a global level, it is estimated that deforestation and forest degradation represent between 10 to 20% of global anthropogenic CO₂ emissions.

UK imports of soya have grown steadily from 2.7 million tonnes in 2011 to 3.8 million tonnes in 2015.¹ The bulk of UK soya imports are for animal feed which is particularly important for poultry and pork production but also used extensively in dairy, beef and aquaculture.

A significant number of UK companies have already committed to eliminating deforestation (a number having recently signed the Statement of Support for the Cerrado Manifesto in October 2017), and are now seeking to accelerate the implementation of these changes and support sustainable agricultural industries with strong social and environmental outcomes.

The Roundtable at the core of a wider Sustainable Soya Initiative

[Efeca](#) has been engaged to facilitate the Roundtable through the UK's [Partnerships for Forests programme](#), which catalyses investment in sustainable land use and forests, while supporting the creation of an enabling environment and demand-side pull for deforestation-free commodities.

Over the past few months, Efeca has engaged with prospective Roundtable participants to understand the desired outcomes for each part of the supply chain and how these can be met. In facilitating the Roundtable, Efeca will help develop its shared goal and outline a template for monitoring and reporting to demonstrate meaningful action and progress.

¹ WWF and RSPB, [Risky Business: Understanding the UK's overseas footprint for deforestation-risk commodities](#). Oct. 2017

The Roundtable will link to and learn from existing global efforts to develop sustainable soya supply chains as well learn from the success of the UK Roundtable for Sourcing Sustainable Palm Oil. Imports of sustainable palm oil have risen significantly since this roundtable was established in 2012.

The UK Roundtable will form the core of a wider UK Sustainable Soya Initiative, linking to existing platforms, programmes and related activities in consumer and producer countries to identify further opportunities to achieve shared goals on sustainable soy and explore the wider debates around sustainable protein production and consumption for the future.

About Efeca

Efeca's team of technical experts provides advice and support to develop, implement, monitor and report on national and international policies, regulations and private sector commitments relating to the sustainable and legal sourcing of natural resources, with a focus on agricultural and forest commodities.

With experience in over 30 countries and team members and associates all over the world, we provide in-depth insight and independent support to clients across the public and private sectors, research and civil society across a wide range of commodities including palm oil, soya, timber, woodfuel, sugar, coffee, tea, cocoa and carbon.

Through the DFID/BEIS funded Partnerships for Forests programme (and previously Defra funded CPET project), Efeca provides demand side technical assistance across a range of forest commodities. Efeca's activities include the facilitation of the UK Roundtable for Sourcing Sustainable Palm Oil and its associated annual reporting since 2012. For further information see www.efeca.com or email us at info@efeca.com