

UK Industry Statement of Support for the COP26 FACT Dialogue

- Around 25% of global greenhouse gas emissions come from the land sector, the second largest source of emissions after the energy sector. About half of these (5-10 GtCO₂e annually) comes from deforestation and forest degradation.
- For the most part this is caused by forests being converted to agricultural land – agricultural expansion drives almost 80% of all tropical deforestation.
- Agricultural commodities such as palm oil and soya are vital for trade and economic development, food security and the livelihoods of billions of people. However, continually expanding areas for agricultural production threatens forests whilst also increasing global emissions and contributing to biodiversity loss. This is a shared global challenge.
- Between 2016 and 2018, an area equivalent to 88% of the total UK land area was required to supply the UK's demand for seven agricultural and forest commodities – beef & leather, cocoa, palm oil, pulp & paper, rubber, soya, and timber.
- Through the UK Roundtables on Sustainable Palm Oil and Soya, UK companies, trade associations and civil society representatives are working together to ensure the UK footprint of these key commodities is sustainably sourced.
- It is critical that businesses work together in partnership with governments and producers to tackle the deforestation footprint associated with agri-commodity supply chains and ensure that global markets reward sustainability and disincentivise damaging practices.

As members of the UK Roundtables on Sustainable Palm Oil and Soya:

- **We welcome** the COP 26 Forests, Agriculture & Commodity Trade Joint Statement of Principles, and commitments from governments globally to work in partnership towards sustainable land management that protects and restores terrestrial ecosystems for the benefit of people and the planet. [Joint statement on principles for collaboration under the Forest, Agriculture and Commodity Trade \(FACT\) Dialogue – GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://www.gov.uk)
- **We call on governments** to take strong collaborative action to put the policies and systems in place and establish long term roadmaps for sustainable commodity trade.
- **We support an approach** that aims to grow markets for sustainably produced commodities, and support producers and producer countries in their efforts to increase trade in sustainable commodities.
- **We will continue to work in support of these objectives** by implementing sustainable commodity sourcing policies within our own supply chains and working

collaboratively to support the global transition to resilient, sustainable soya and palm oil supply chains.

- **We strongly believe the private sector has a critical role to play** in supporting the transition to sustainable supply chains and in light of the urgency of these issues would encourage all businesses to take similar action.

July 2021

Signatories

AB Agri	KTC Edibles
Asda	McDonald's UK & Ireland
Compass Group UK & Ireland	Morrisons
Co-op	Moy Park
Costa Coffee	Nestlé UK & Ireland
Cranswick plc	Pilgrim's Pride Ltd
Croda	Red Tractor Assurance
DAABON Group	The Agricultural Industries Confederation
Dairy UK	The British and Irish Association of Zoos and Aquariums
Dunbia	The British Egg Industry Council
Edsential	The Food and Drink Federation
ForFarmers	The National Pig Association
Greggs	The National Edible Oil Distributors' Association
Hilton Food Group	The National Farmers' Union
John Lewis Partnership	The University Caterers Organisation Ltd
Kepak	The Zoological Society of London
KFC UK and Ireland	

Background on the UK Roundtables on Sustainable Palm Oil and Soya, and the FACT (Forest, Agriculture and Commodity Trade) Dialogue

The UK Roundtable on Sourcing Sustainable Palm Oil is a pre-competitive industry alliance that since 2016 has brought together procurers of palm oil – major food and non-food trade associations, refiners, manufacturers, wholesalers, contract caterers and retailers – to promote the uptake of sustainable palm oil (SPO) in the UK. In 2019, at least 70% of all palm and palm kernel oil imported into the UK could be reported as certified sustainable, with a significant additional share being covered by a NDPE* policy – a significant increase from only 16% of a comparable volume in 2010.¹ The Roundtable is part of the broader UK Sustainable Palm Oil Initiative including an outreach and engagement programme to stimulate and support a shift in global market demand, working closely with other national initiatives across Europe, as well as global producer and consumer platforms, for example in China and India.

*No-deforestation, No-peat and No-exploitation (NDPE)

[¹ 2019 Annual Progress Report \(APR\)](#)

The UK Roundtable on Sustainable Soya is a pre-competitive industry alliance established more recently in 2018, including representation from soya traders, feed industry, meat and dairy producers, food service and all major UK retailers. The goal of the UK Soya Roundtable is to accelerate progress towards secure, resilient supplies of sustainable soya to the UK through a commitment to sourcing soya that is legal and cultivated in a way that protects against conversion of forests and valuable native vegetation. In 2019, 32% of soya imported into the UK was covered by a deforestation/conversion free certified soya standard. If soya considered to be from sources at low risk of deforestation/conversion is added to this figure, the total proportion of soya likely to be deforestation/conversion free amounted to 62%.² The Roundtable is part of the broader UK Sustainable Soya Initiative, which also includes a programme of outreach and engagement across Europe and beyond, aiming to support the global mass market transition to sustainable soya.

[² Annual Progress Report \(APR\)](#)

The UK Government, as President of COP26, is convening a Government to Government (G2G) dialogue on sustainable land use and trade in forest and agricultural commodities: **The Forest, Agriculture and Commodity Trade (FACT) Dialogue**. The aim is for countries to take collaborative actions that promote trade and development while protecting forests.

This G2G dialogue is supported by a wider Multistakeholder Consultation (MSC) process. The role of the multistakeholder dialogue process is to provide guidance and input to the G2G FACT Dialogue, supporting its overall strategy to achieve ambitious yet realistic producer and consumer country-driven principles, roadmaps and commitments. The Tropical Forest Alliance (TFA) is supporting the UK Government to mobilise voices, input, and participation into the FACT Dialogue, from business, civil society and academia.

<https://www.tropicalforestalliance.org/en/collective-action-agenda/cop26/>