

Sustainable Soya Sourcing Policy

Background

Soya is the main source of protein in our global food supply. Soya bean crops and the products derived from them feature in our food chain as an ingredient in products like tofu, soy sauce and meat substitutes. More significantly however, over 70% of soya is used in animal feed and therefore an embedded, hidden ingredient in the supply chain for meat, eggs and dairy.

Soya bean meal is the main source of protein in the livestock industry and as populations have grown, so has the demand for diets to include more meat. As a result, the demand and production of soya is also increasing around the world. However, it has now been recognised that this expansion in soya production is a key driver of deforestation and habitat conversion in producing countries, with impacts on both the environment and local communities.

What is Bidfood doing?

In order to address the challenges mentioned above, Bidfood is committed to better understanding and improving the sustainability of the soya in our supply chain. We are consulting with Efeca and the UK Roundtable on Sustainable Soya, and have referenced information from organisations such as WWF, Consumer Goods Forum (CGF), Proforest and The European Compound Feed Manufacturers' Federation (FEFAC). Bidfood also supports the upcoming UK Due Diligence Legislation on Forest Risk Commodities, which is currently in development where soya is named as one of these forest risk commodities.

The sustainability of our products is important both to Bidfood and to our customers. In July 2022 we sent out a questionnaire to all suppliers of products containing animal derived ingredients (ADI) or soya as an ingredient, and have used this to inform our approach and set a target to achieving a deforestation and conversion free (DCF) soya supply chain.

Bidfood support industry initiatives to improve the sustainability of the soya supply chain and are active members of Efeca's Foodservice Working Group which focuses on sustainable commodities including soya.

Policy

This policy states the soya standards which we expect suppliers to comply with when producing products for Bidfood's own brands, and the procedures to ensure that this is the case. It also states any goals that we would like to achieve and includes reporting of progress against these.

In our own brand products, we expect to use 100% deforestation and conversion free (DCF) soya by the end of 2030.

The UK Soy Manifesto has a target date of 2025 and Bidfood recognises the progress they are making towards this; however, we have proposed 2030 as an expected completion date as a large proportion of our products contain animal derived ingredients (ADI) from outside the UK and we have found there is limited visibility and knowledge of soya in these supply chains.

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Scope

This policy applies to products that contain:

- Soya in animal feed - any own brand product with over 5% animal derived ingredient (ADI) content combined, excluding derivatives.
- Soya as an ingredient - any own brand product with over 1% soya content

Products containing animal feed - We found data for products with less than 5% ADI had less visibility in their supply chain and due to the complexity in this area we have decided to focus on products which have the largest impact. We will continue to encourage our suppliers to improve their knowledge in this area and as our policy progresses we will review the products included within this scope.

Soya as an ingredient - Soya directly in our products makes up a much smaller footprint than for animal feed, therefore Bidfood has focused on our main products, which are those containing over 1% soya. We will continue to encourage suppliers of products containing less than 1% soya to consider the environmental impacts of the soya in their products and work towards creating a DCF soya policy. We will share information on this area on an annual basis with these suppliers to help do so.

Definitions

Soya bean/Soya/Soy: annual legume of the pea family (Fabaceae) and its edible seed. The soybean is economically the most important bean in the world, providing vegetable protein for millions of people and ingredients for hundreds of chemical products. The term 'soya' and 'soy' are used interchangeably but the terms refer to the same product. In this policy Bidfood refers to all soya/soy products as soya.

Soyabean meal: the ground protein-rich residue from the production of soyabean oil used mainly in animal feed.

Efeca: Efeca provides specialised advice on responsible sourcing, sustainable trade and use of agricultural and forest commodities. A Tropical Forest Alliance partner, World Economic Forum preferred supplier, a UN Global Compact signatory and Accountability Framework initiative coalition member, their team of technical experts has worked with a wide range of clients across public, private, finance and civil society sectors. We are members of Efeca's Foodservice Working Group.

UK Roundtable on Sustainable Soya: is an industry led initiative, funded by UK Government through the Partnerships for Forests programme, to support uptake of sustainable soya.

DCF: Deforestation and conversion free

ADI: Animal derived ingredient, any substance of animal origin.

Procedures and responsibilities

Our Action Plan to 2030 includes:

- By 2026 we aim to have in place a strategy and roadmap to DCF soya with each supplier of products containing soya or ADI. Within these 4 years we will;

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- Raise awareness and knowledge of our policy and deforestation through soya with our suppliers by 2024
- Prioritise our suppliers based upon their soya footprint and work with these first to move to DCF soya
- Work with each supplier based upon this prioritisation to ensure a strategy and roadmap to DCF soya is created.
- By 2030 we aim to have implemented all roadmaps and achieved DCF soya in our targeted products: Between 2026 and 2030 we will;
 - Ensure all suppliers have a strategy and roadmap which is updated annually and progress reported to Bidfood
 - Work with any suppliers which have made slower progress and struggled with visibility in their supply chain to ensure they can meet the 2030 target.

We will hold annual KPI reviews with suppliers, which will cover progress on soya, as well as other sustainability issues if relevant.

The sourcing of DCF soya will use a risk assessment to determine sustainability in line with information provided by FEAC and the [Consumer Goods Forum Soy Sourcing Guidelines](#). Any soya sourced from countries outside of South America will be determined as low risk, and any sourced from South America, in particular Brazil, Argentina, Paraguay and Bolivia will be considered high risk and require certification. Our preference is to use identity preserved or segregated certification, but where this is not possible, certified sustainable mass balance will be accepted if agreed in advance with the Bidfood Technical Manager. We encourage our suppliers to purchase credits to support the production of certified soya prior to achieving a certified supply chain if soya is sourced from high-risk countries.

If soya is sourced from low risk countries, then soya does not need to be certified but does need to be verified DCF and evidence of this must be provided to Bidfood.

Every supplier should align, and use, the definitions agreed within the Accountability Framework Initiative in their policies and supplier requirements.

A cut-off date is required for allowable conversion or deforestation, which must be regionally relevant and not exceed 1st January, 2020.

Our policy and target will be reviewed annually to ensure progress is being made against an area with some unknowns at this stage. As such anticipated dates may be brought forward based upon this (if possible), whilst also taking into consideration availability constraints that our suppliers may face, or possibly be pushed back, until more information is known.

Responsibility for ensuring this policy is reviewed, monitored and implemented sits with our Category Technical Controller and will be discussed annually in the Healthy and Sustainable Working Group. Monitoring and implementation will be the responsibility of the Soya Steering Group which is owned by the Sustainability Projects Manager and contains members from buying, category management and technical services.

Our suppliers will be requested to complete a Bidfood soya questionnaire annually to capture details on their soya sourcing and certification along with the type of soya used in each product. The Technical Services department manages this questionnaire and the information will be maintained

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through a soya tracker. This enables us to respond to customer requests regarding the sustainability of soya within our products.

We expect suppliers to update us as soon as a change occurs to their soya status in order to maintain information integrity. Information provided by suppliers will be periodically audited as part of the Bidfood internal audit procedure which will occur at least annually.

Reporting

We will report the percentage of product lines in our supply chain that contain 100% deforestation and habitat conversion free soya. This information will be available for use by customers and other external stakeholders in the Bidfood Sustainability Report published annually.

We will also report against our interim target of all suppliers having a strategy and roadmap to DCF free soya by 2026.

Policy history

Date	Version	Changes From Previous Version
July 2022	1	New policy created
April 2023	2	Target and scope added along with details of action plan to achieve this.