

Press release of September 5, 2017

Soy Network sets the pace

One year after it was founded, the Soy Network sets its marks: with the first benchmarking of soy standards and increased procurement of certified soy for feed from Europe.

Switzerland and the members of the Soy Network can give the global soy market fresh impetus. Since last year, the Swiss meat, milk and egg industry has switched almost entirely to responsibly produced soy for feed. This is noteworthy because worldwide only about 2% of soy is produced in accordance with minimum environmental and social criteria. The developments in Switzerland are therefore being watched with great interest by international retailers and brand-name producers – even though demand from Switzerland is insignificant compared with that from other countries.

This year, the Soy Network association carried out the first benchmarking of the strengths and weaknesses of the soy standards ProTerra, RTRS and Danube Soya. The comparison was conducted using the ambitious WWF Certification Assessment Tool. The findings, presented at the association's second general assembly in Delley, confirm that the Soy Network is relying on the right core values. However, the benchmarking also showed that all the standards still need to be developed further. Encouragingly, the benchmarking has already had an impact: The standardizing organizations Danube Soya and ProTerra have agreed to cooperate more closely on the further development of European soy production.

The increased procurement of certified soy for feed in Europe is a trend the members of the Soy Network are actively promoting. As recently as 2010, nearly all soy for feed came from Brazil. Today more than a fifth is sourced in Europe. Thereby, the member organizations are satisfying an important customer demand: to source raw materials as closely as possible. Bell, Denner, Ernst Sutter, Kunz Kunath, Lidl, Volg and the Federation of Swiss Cereals and Feed Traders (VSGF) recently joined the Soy Network. This shows that the network's responsible actions are motivational and strengthen faith in the Swiss food and agricultural sector.

Members

Agrokommerz AG, ALDI SUISSE AG, Bell Switzerland AG, Bio Suisse, Coop Cooperative, Denner AG, Egli Mühlen AG, Ernst Sutter AG, fenaco Cooperative, Fuga Getreide AG, Heinz & Co. AG, IP-SUISSE, KM Commodities AG, Kunz Kunath AG, Lidl Switzerland, the Federation of Migros Cooperatives, Provimi Kliba AG, the Swiss Farmers' Union (SFU), the Federation of Swiss Milk Producers (SMP), Suisseporcs, Transgourmet Switzerland AG, UFA AG, the Association of Swiss Cereal and Feed Traders (VSGF), the Federation of Swiss Feed Manufacturers (VSF), Volg Konsumwaren AG, WWF Switzerland