

**18 April 2024**

**Media release Soya Network Switzerland**

**Annual meeting of the Soya Network at the border triangle in Basel: facts, figures and developments**

## **Noble intentions become a business model**

**Coop and WWF set the ball rolling in 2004. They developed the first sustainability standard for deforestation-free soya cultivation, the so-called "Basel Criteria". What "do-gooders" put down on paper 20 years ago has become a business model in 2024 that can be used to reduce the ecological footprint and earn money.**

The members of the Soya Network, supported by 20 years of development, were able to take note of some pleasing current figures and developments at the Dreiländereck in Basel. Soya used in Switzerland - long associated with burning forests and clear-cutting - is 100% deforestation-free and, thanks to the Soya Network, comes almost entirely from European cultivation. In 2023, Switzerland imported 218,603 tonnes of feed soya. 97% of imports came from European countries, 3% from Brazil. The three most important countries of cultivation out of a total of 15 are Italy (56%), Ukraine (14%) and Austria (8%).

Calculations from 2023 show: The developments towards certified feed soya from European cultivation have gradually reduced the greenhouse gas emissions associated with Swiss soya imports from 1 million tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalents in 2004 by around 85% to 147,000 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalents in 2022.

### **Business model for commodities**

The players in the soya network, from agriculture to retail, share their ambitions, values and goals. Foreign soya suppliers are a central piece of the puzzle in the value chain. The Italian industrial group Cereal Docks is currently the most important supplier of feed soya to Switzerland.

Cereal Docks sees itself as a bridge between agriculture and industry and works with 17,000 farms. Cereal Docks makes its supply chain more sustainable through training, field activities and research. The protection of natural resources, especially water and soil, the reduction of greenhouse gases and adaptation to climate change, the increase in efficiency and the preservation of biodiversity are addressed in practice. The digital app "Sistema Green" developed by Cereal Docks helps farmers to monitor and measure the measures. Cristina Dalla Bona, responsible for trading and sustainability of the international supply chains within Cereal Docks, added in Basel:

"It is crucial that we have an open dialogue with farmers, to show them solutions and provide them with useful tools to make their agricultural practices more efficient and sustainable. Digital tools such as Sistema Green help to save water, collect climate protection indicators and ensure traceability. These are all elements that are also being demanded by society and state actors, such as the EUDR."

Switzerland has solved the deforestation problem on a private law basis. With or without the new EU regulation against deforestation (EUDR): The members of the Swiss Soya Network continue to work together in market-orientated engagement with all players in the supply chains to find practical

solutions. Innovative companies such as Cereal Docks are efficient and strengthen sustainability efforts.

*Further information and the current annual report can be found at [www.sojanetzwerk.ch](http://www.sojanetzwerk.ch)*

**New president**

Fortunat Schmid, Head of Quality Management, fenaco GOF, was elected as the new President by the General Assembly. He will take over the presidency of the Soya Network for two years on a rotating basis, succeeding Salome Hofer, Head of Sustainability & Economic Policy at Coop. Andrin Dietziker, Project Manager Sustainability Coop, was also newly elected to the Board. He replaces Salome Hofer.

Contact:           Stefan Kausch, Managing Director Soya Network, Tel. 076 349 66 94  
[info@sojanetzwerk.ch](mailto:info@sojanetzwerk.ch), [www.sojanetzwerk.ch](http://www.sojanetzwerk.ch)