

# Annual Report Soya Network Switzerland

Basel, 25 March 2025

2024

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## **Foreword**

### Securing soya supply from Europe

The world has become more unpredictable. One follows another: Covid, wars, political upheaval, extreme weather events. On the one hand, such escalations are poison for the functioning of global supply chains. They are significantly disrupted or the price volatility of goods and services increases in scale and cadence. On the other hand, however, disruptions also offer opportunities if companies look ahead and are able to react quickly to changes.

In 2015, the world was a different place. At that time, members of the Soya Network decided to procure feed soya in Europe, invest and set up the necessary logistics. It was a far-sighted decision. Dependence on Brazil as the main importing country was reduced in the following years. Good relationships were established with European suppliers. Proximity to these suppliers is a trump card in our hands when it to securing the raw material. But is this enough?

Switzerland currently obtains around 95% of its feed soya from European cultivation. The EU, on the other hand, imports 92% of its feed soya, mainly from Brazil, Argentina and the USA. European soya cultivation (including Ukraine and Russia) has experienced impressive growth. It rose from 7.5 million tonnes in 2014 to 13 million tonnes in 2024.

However, the continent is a long way from being self-sufficient. And what would happen if EU countries decided to switch to heathy soya feed due to customs disputes with the USA or the EUDR deforestation regulation? Is Switzerland prepared for such scenarios?

Switzerland has established itself as an attractive sales market for suppliers from neighbouring EU countries and Ukraine. Nevertheless, we would do well not to completely disengage Brazil as a supplier of sustainably certified soya meal. The broadest possible origin of the product and well-organised supply chains are the basis for consistency and independence on the market.

In addition, we need to work together in the soya network to define common requirements for sustainability and resilience of a market along the entire value chain and to implement the measures in stages. Looking at the current political trends, secure bilateral agreements with the EU in the agricultural and animal feed sector are part of this and are urgently needed. Incidentally, sometimes even maintaining the status quo is a challenge.

I would like to thank you for your commitment and look forward to continuing to work with you.



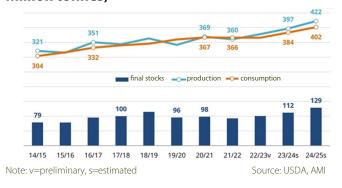
**Fortunat Schmid** President Soya Network Switzerland

# Market development

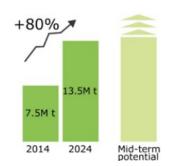
The global soya supply increased by around 15% in the reporting year and is on course for record production an estimated 422 million tonnes of soya beans. Brazil, the USA and Argentina are the three largest soyagrowing countries.

There was also a new record harvest in Europe with 13.5 million tonnes. Ukraine, Russia and Italy are among the largest growing countries. Ukraine was able to increase exports by 26% compared to 2023 (see also interview on page 4).

#### Global supply balance for soya beans (in million tonnes)



#### Soya output in Europe (2014-2024)



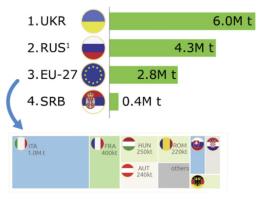
Note: only the European part of Russia is shown.

Source: Donau Soia

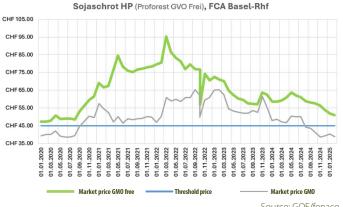
### Price development for soya extraction meal Jan. 2020 - Jan. 2025

After the price of GMO-free soya meal reached a record level with Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine, prices have fallen since the resumption of export activity in Ukraine, first by land and then again via the Black Sea ports. In addition, harvest volumes in South America have normalised again since 2023/24 (especially in Argentina). At the same time, demand in China has stagnated, which has contributed to an oversupply of soya beans and meal.

### Most important soya producers in Europe (2024)



Source: Donau Soja



Source: GOF/fenaco

### **Excursus Ukraine**

# Three questions for Volodymyr Pugachov, Executive Director Eastern Europe Donau Soja



the decline in domestic consumption. According to the UNHCR (United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees), in February 2025, there were 6,906,500 refugees from Ukraine registered.

Soya is the only crop whose area under cultivation in Ukraine increased during the war. This is mainly due to the cultivation area (western and central Ukraine), good prices and lower operating resources (no fertilisers used and no energy required for drying).

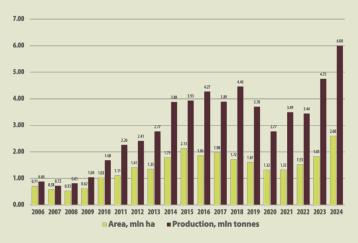
### Soya Network: How is it possible that Ukraine exported more soya in 2024 than before the war?

Volodymyr Pugachov: Ukraine is a self-sufficient agricultural country that produces many times more than it needs for domestic consumption. Today, the export of agricultural products is the most important prerequisite for the stable functioning of the agricultural sector. The crucial role of Ukraine's agricultural exports is emphasised by the fact that agriculture accounts for 60.8% of total exports. Despite the decline in crop production during the war, which was mainly due to the loss of territories, Ukraine reached the pre-war level of agricultural exports (of all agricultural products) in 2024.

The support of international partners helped the Ukrainian agricultural industry to maintain its production capacities and ensure local and global food security. Together with the motivation of Ukrainian farmers, these were important factors in the resilience and recovery of the agricultural industry. Another factor the export of agricultural products from Ukraine is

### Soya Network: What logistical challenges have you had to overcome in order to export soya?

**Volodymyr Pugachov**: The Black Sea ports continue to be the most important source of Ukrainian agricultural exports, including soya. In 2024, around 67.4 million tonnes of grain, oilseeds and their processed products were exported, of which 55.2 million tonnes were exported by sea. The biggest challenge was the unblocking of the Black Sea, which was successfully completed by Ukraine in September 2023



Source: Donau Soja

### **Excursus Ukraine**

was implemented. Before that, from August 2022 to June 2023, there was the so-called "Grain Initiative", which allowed exports via Black Sea ports.

These periods are shown in the chart, with export peaks when the blockade of the Black Sea was lifted. According to the Ukrainian Ministry of Agrarian Policy and Food63% of soya exports in 2024 were handled via ports, 26% by rail and 11% by road and ferry.

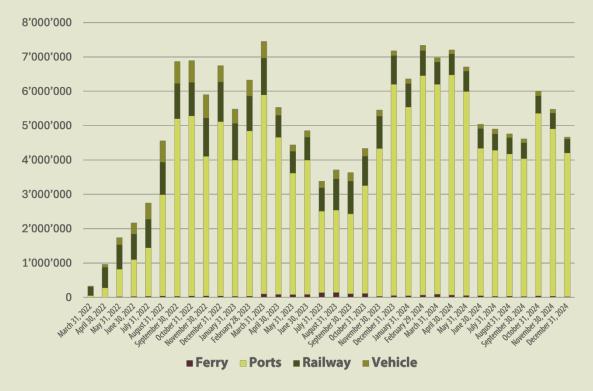
Soy Network: Have the disputes with neighbouring countries, which led to import bans on Ukrainian agricultural goods, been resolved? What are the prospects?

Volodymyr Pugachov: The EU's initiatives to support trade in agricultural products with Ukraine should definitely be noted. The importance of such measures is invaluable for Ukraine; the EU solidarity channels in particular have been a lifeline for Ukrainian agriculture and thus for the country's economy. About 60 % of Ukraine's foreign exchange earnings are generated in the agricultural sector. The EU Solidarity corridors and the autonomous trade preferences for

Ukraine have enabled the export of Ukrainian agricultural products and the import of essential goods, proving their indispensability in the face of current geopolitical challenges.

Since the beginning of the war, the EU has provided Ukraine extensive financial and humanitarian aid, thereby emphasising its solidarity with Ukraine. Together with the liberalisation of trade with the EU, these measures have had a significant impact on the Ukrainian agricultural sector and the economy as a whole. In comparison, the EU's share of Ukraine's total agricultural exports rose from 27.7 % in 2021 to 56.6 % in 2023.

On 5 June 2024, the EU introduced the updated system of autonomous trade preferences, which takes into account the restrictions on duty-free imports of "sensitive" agricultural and food products: Sugar, eggs, poultry meat, maize and processed cereal products - the so-called "emergency brake". This mechanism has already proved its worth for imports of sugar, eggs and oats from Ukraine. Soya is not subject to the "emergency brake" mechanism and can be freely traded from Ukraine to the EU.



Source: Donau Soja

# **Feed imports**

For the first time since the start of the import surveys among procurers, all 25 importers contacted feedback. Eight procurers did not report any imports to be declared.

### Soya

According to Réservesuisse, a total of 243,015 tonnes of feed soya were imported into Switzerland in 2024. 13 procurers reported imports to the Soya Network. Together with Bio Suisse imports, the reported figures are congruent with Réservesuisse. On this basis, 100% market coverage was achieved.

#### Imports of feed soya 2024

Customs tariff number	Import in tonnes	Designation
2304.0010	235'261	Oil cake and other solid residues from the extraction of soya bean oil, whether or not crushed or agglomerated in the form of pellets for animal feed
1201.9010	2'008	Soya beans, whether or not crushed, for animal feed, other than for oil extraction
1201.9021	5'745	Soya beans, whether or not crushed, for oil extraction, for animal feed
Total	243'015	

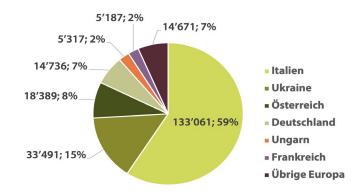
Source: Réservesuisse

At 92.5%, the majority of feed soya comes from Europe. 14,612 tonnes of feed soya were imported from Brazil. The main country of cultivation in Europe was Italy with 133,061 tonnes. This corresponds to a share of 59%. Ukraine accounted for 15% and Austria for 8% of European feed soya.

#### Origin of feed soya imports in 2024

	Import in tonnes	Share in %
Europe	224'851	92.5%
Brazil <sup>1</sup>	14'612	6%
India	3'497	1.4%
China/Indonesia	55	0.0%
Total	243'015	100%

Source: Soya Network / Réservesuisse



Source: Soya Network / Réservesuisse

 $<sup>^{\</sup>scriptscriptstyle 1}$  incl. soya beans from Brazil processed in the EU

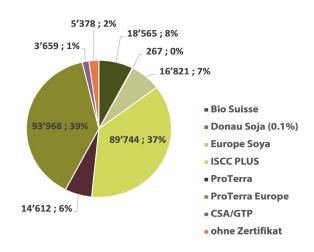
# **Feed imports**

Nine procurers imported sustainably certified feed soya. Three procurers achieved a share of between 90 % and 100 %. One procurer did not achieve the minimum target of 90%. This results in a 97.8 % share of sustainably certified feed soya for the market as a whole.

In addition to the progress made in data collection and quality, there is potential for improvement in the flow of goods. We have not yet reached the target of segregated imports. The proportion of segregated goods was , 37% of imports were imported in mass balance. The product flow model for non-certified goods is not known.

#### Label shares of feed soya imports in 2024

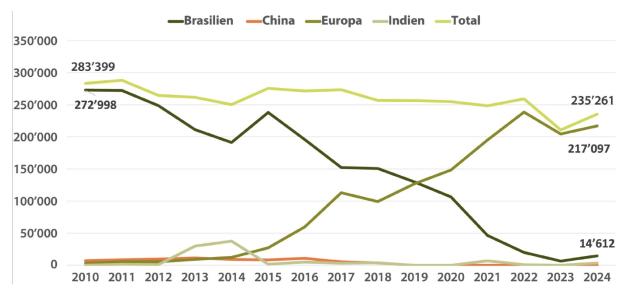
	Import in tonnes	Share in %
Bio Suisse	18'565	7.6 %
Danube Soya	267	0.1 %
Europe Soya	16'821	6.9 %
ISCC PLUS	89'744	36.9 %
ProTerra	14'612	6.0 %
ProTerra Europe	93'968	38.7 %
CSA/GTP	3'659	1.5 %
without certificate	5'378	2.2 %
Total imports	243'015	



Source: Bio Suisse, Procurer Soya Network

Soya imports increased in 2024 compared to the previous year. They have been trending downwards since 2011. Since 2022, imports from Europe have accounted for more than 90 %.

#### Imports of soya extraction meal 2010 - 2024 (in tonnes)



Source: Soya Network / Réservesuisse

# **Feed imports**

### **Feed grain**

According to Réservesuisse, a total of 318,645 tonnes of feed grain were imported into Switzerland in 2024. The imports reported by the 17 procurers amounted to 312,175 tonnes. The market coverage of these 17 procurers is 99.5 % for wheat, 98.4 % for barley and 80.1 % for oats.

#### Imports of feed grain 2024

Raw material	Customs tariff number	Imports according to Réservesuisse (tonnes)	Imports procurer (tonnes)	Market coverage
Wheat	1001.9939	246'244	245'017	99.5%
Barley	1003.9059	50'225	49'406	98.4%
Oats	1004.9039	22'176	17'752	80.1%
Total		318'645	312'175	

Source: Soya Network / Réservesuisse

92% of feed wheat was imported from Germany and France. of feed barley came from Germany, France and Hungary and 90% of feed oats came from Germany, France, Finland and the Czech Republic.

All procurers have received proof of "no siccation with synthetic pesticides" from their suppliers for their reported imports. All glyphosate analyses were negative, i.e. had a value <0.01 mg glyphosate / kg feed. Two procurers carried out too few or no glyphosate analyses. Measures in accordance with the sanction regulations were initiated.

### **Broken rice and corn gluten**

In the reporting year, 44,945 tonnes of sustainably certified broken rice were procured from Brazil. In 2024, 55.3 % of corn gluten came from European cultivation and production. 44.7 % of maize gluten imports still came from China. The "European corn gluten" target was therefore achieved. Austria, France, Bulgaria and Hungary are the most important European countries of origin.

#### Imports of broken rice and maize gluten 2024

Raw material	Customs tariff number	Imports according to Réservesuisse (tonnes)	Imports procurer (tonnes)	Market coverage
Broken rice	1006.4029	40'567	44'945	110.8%²
Barley	2303.1018	50'560	49'364	97.4%

Source: Soya Network / Réservesuisse

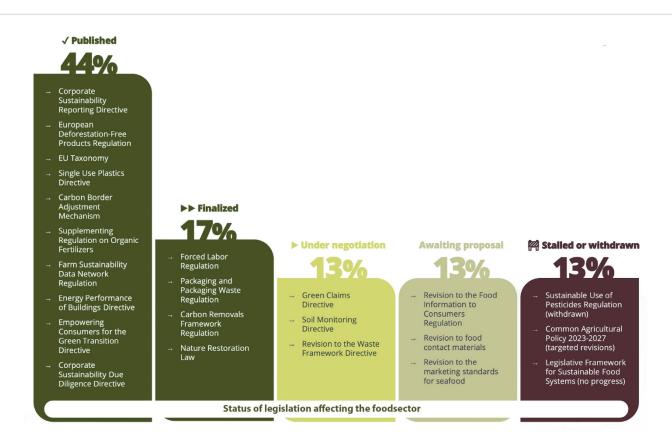
<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup>The discrepancies between the imports reported by the procurers and the figures from Réservesuisse are due to the fact that the import of a batch took place at the turn of the year and was recorded in different years.

# **Green Deal and EUDR**

A number of regulations and directives have been published, finalised or proposed as part of the European Union's (EU) Green Deal. According to Deloitte, 23 regulations have an impact on the food sector. Of these, 44% have officially become law. A further 17% have been finalised and are about to be published.

Originally, the EUDR deforestation regulation of 31 May 2023 was to be applied as early as 30 December 2024. However, on 4 December 2024, the trialogue of the EU institutions decided to postpone it by 12 months. The start of the Deforestation Regulation has therefore been postponed to 30 December 2025. For small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), there is a postponement to 30 June 2026. The EU now also has more time and is to publish a list of countries by 30 June 2025.

public, for which only a low or high risk applies. In Switzerland, the Federal Council is currently refraining from amending Swiss law and is monitoring the situation. The Soya Network is regularly informed by the Federal Office for the Environment (FOEN) about developments in the EU and Switzerland. The Soya Network has provided its members with background information in the form of three handouts.



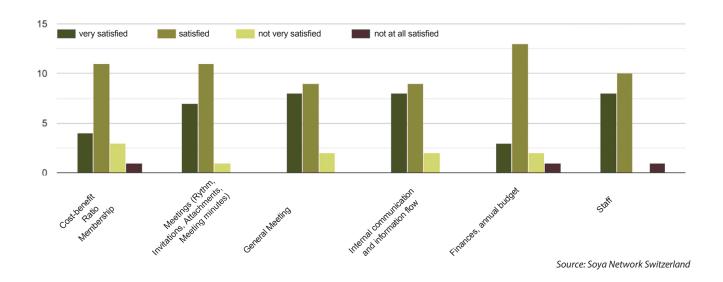
Source: 2024 Deloitte The Netherlands

# Member survey

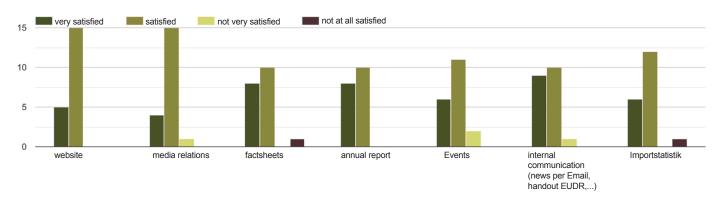
A member survey was in the reporting year. 20 out of 34 members took part in the survey. The members are satisfied with the work of the Soya Network. The topics of 'transparency and traceability,' 'sustainability standards,' of other members. Various work packages were and 'international networking' are priorities for members.

strategy update is desired. workshop was therefore held by the Executive Board on 19 September 2024 with the participation approved, which will be worked on in 2025/26.

### How satisfied are you with the organisation and management of the soya network by pluswert GmbH?



#### How satisfied are you with the communication of the Soya Network?



Source: Soya Network Switzerland

### Association

### **Members and Executive Board**

Procurer Kölla Grain AG joined the association in the reporting year. The Swiss Soya Network thus has a total of 34 members as at 31 December 2024:

### **Members of the Swiss Soya Network**



The Board of the Association is composed as follows as at 31 December 2024

Fortunat Schmid (President), fenaco Cooperative

Andrin Dietziker, Coop Cooperative

Martin Lobsiger, Federation of Migros Cooperatives

Michel Darbellay, Swiss Farmers' Union SBC

**Thomas Kopp,** Association of the Swiss Grain and Feed Trade VSGF

Christian Oesch, Swiss Feed Manufacturers Association VSF

Five Board meetings were held in 2024.

