

## The UK Sustainable Soya Initiative

The UK government, a signatory to the New York Declaration on Forests and the Amsterdam Declarations, is strongly committed to supporting a transition to sustainable supply chains for agricultural commodities which are currently associated with deforestation in developing countries.

DFID, BEIS and Defra have been working with UK retailers, associations and other partners to establish a **UK Sustainable Soya Initiative**. Efeca has been engaged to support these efforts through the [Partnership for Forests programme](#), which catalyses investment in sustainable forests and land use.

In this first phase focus is on the establishment of a **UK Roundtable on Sustainable Soya**, the aim of which is to bring together significant players in the UK soya market, providing a pre-competitive space for companies and industry associations to work together to achieve a shared goal of a secure, resilient, sustainable supply of soya to the UK, with joint progress monitoring and reporting. Efeca will facilitate Roundtable meetings and provide technical advice, scoping studies and supporting research, while linking to existing platforms, programmes and related activities in both consumer and producer countries.

In recognition of the need to capture both the growing imperative for action from the private sector and the high-level political support for accelerated progress, the UK Soya Initiative will be launched through a Roundtable on the **19<sup>th</sup> March 2018** at the Royal Society, London.

### Background

The expansion of soya production in South America has been strongly associated with deforestation and other natural habitat destruction, leading to bio-diversity loss and impacts on local communities. At a global level, it is estimated that deforestation and forest degradation represent between 10 to 20% of global anthropogenic CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.

UK imports of soya have grown steadily from 2.7 million tonnes in 2011 to 3.8 million tonnes in 2015.<sup>1</sup> The bulk of UK soya imports are for animal feed which is particularly important for poultry and pork production but also used extensively in dairy, beef and aquaculture. A significant number of UK companies have already committed to eliminating deforestation (a number having recently signed the Statement of Support for the Cerrado Manifesto in October 2017), and are now seeking to accelerate the implementation of these changes and support sustainable agricultural industries with strong social and environmental outcomes.

### The response - Phase 1

In Phase 1, Efeca will support the establishment of a UK Roundtable on Sustainable Soya, on behalf of DFID, BEIS and Defra and as the first step of launching the UK Sustainable Soya Initiative.

Over the past few months, Efeca has engaged with prospective Roundtable participants to understand the desired outcomes for each sector and how these can be met. Through these

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<sup>1</sup> WWF and RSPB, [Risky Business: Understanding the UK's overseas footprint for deforestation-risk commodities](#). Oct. 2017

discussions, Efeca will help to develop a goal and outline a template for monitoring and reporting for the UK Roundtable for Sustainable Soya.

The UK Roundtable will recognise, support and engage with the existing global landscape of initiatives, platforms. This will be achieved through outreach to existing European and global soya initiatives to learn lessons and look for ways to align around shared goals. To show meaningful action and progress, an annual report will be produced, with agreed indicators for measuring change.

### **About Efeca**

Efeca's team of technical experts provides advice and support to develop, implement, monitor and report on national and international policies, regulations and private sector commitments relating to the sustainable and legal sourcing of natural resources, with a focus on agricultural and forest commodities.

With experience in over 30 countries and team members and associates all over the world, we provide in-depth insight and independent support to clients across the public and private sectors, research and civil society across a wide range of commodities including palm oil, soya, timber, woodfuel, sugar, coffee, tea, cocoa and carbon.

Through the DFID funded Partnerships for Forests programme (and previously Defra funded CPET project), Efeca provides demand side technical assistance across a range of forest commodities. Efeca's activities include the facilitation of the UK Roundtable for Sourcing Sustainable Palm Oil and its associated annual reporting since 2012. For further information see [www.efeca.com](http://www.efeca.com) or email us at [info@efeca.com](mailto:info@efeca.com)