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Responsible Soy Production: What Are the Issues at Stake?

WWF's Approach: Roundtable on Responsible Soy and Basel Criteria

Bella Roscher
Soy Certification Seminar
Berlin, Feb 28, 2007





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1. Background
2. Current Status
3. Company Strategy





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1. Background





The Footprint

Forest conversion...



Legal/illegal logging



“Hot“ land clearing



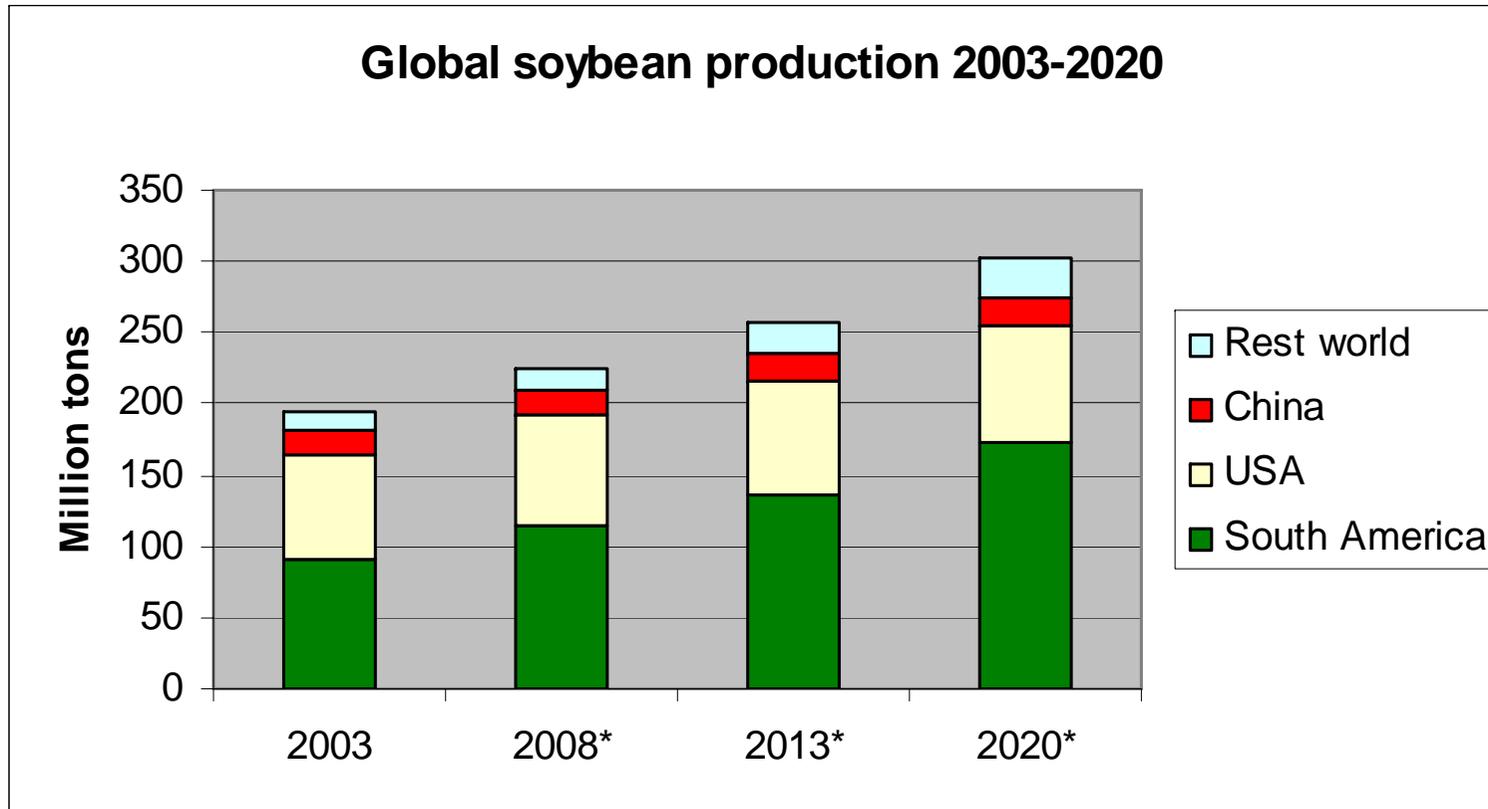
Monocultures

...for every day products





Projection Global Soybean Production



Source: AidEnvironment 2004/ Oil World

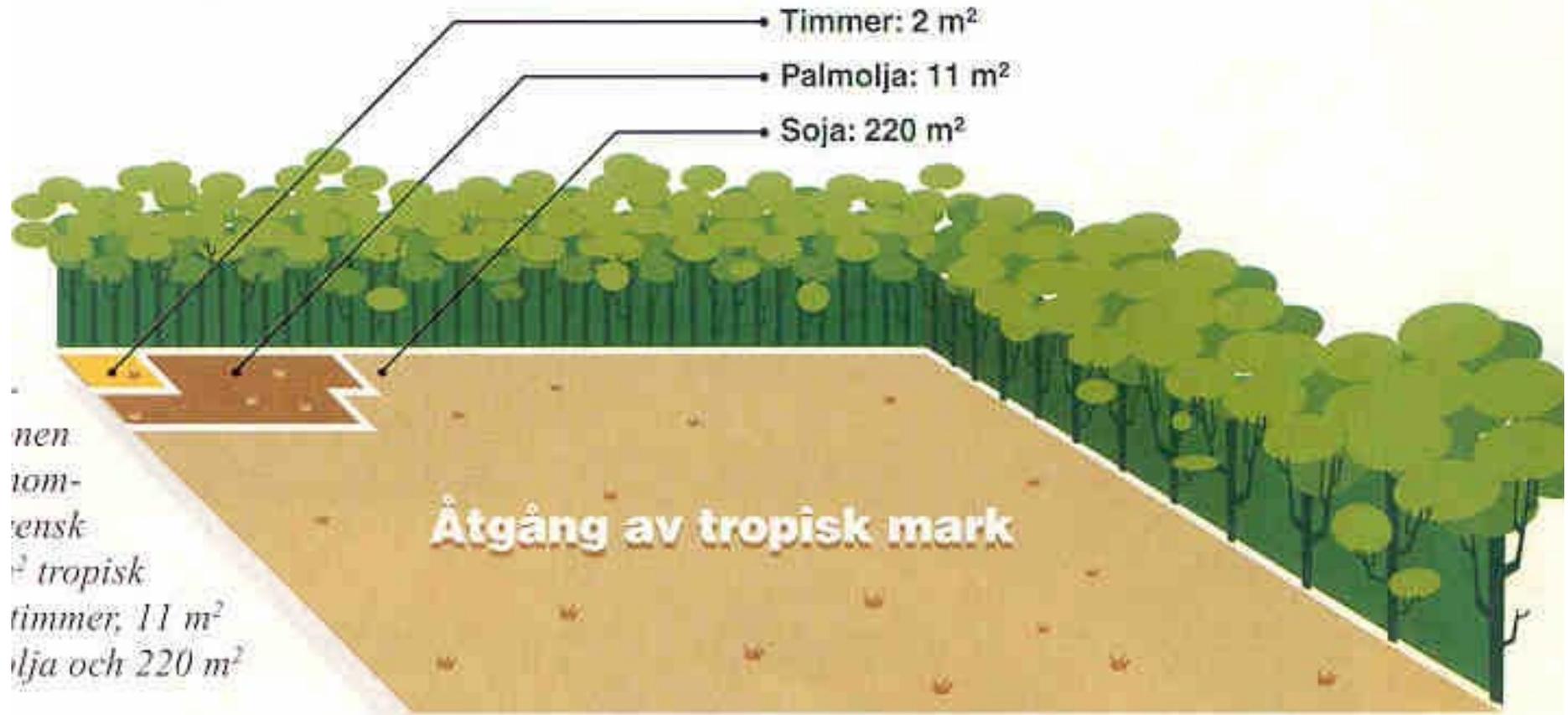


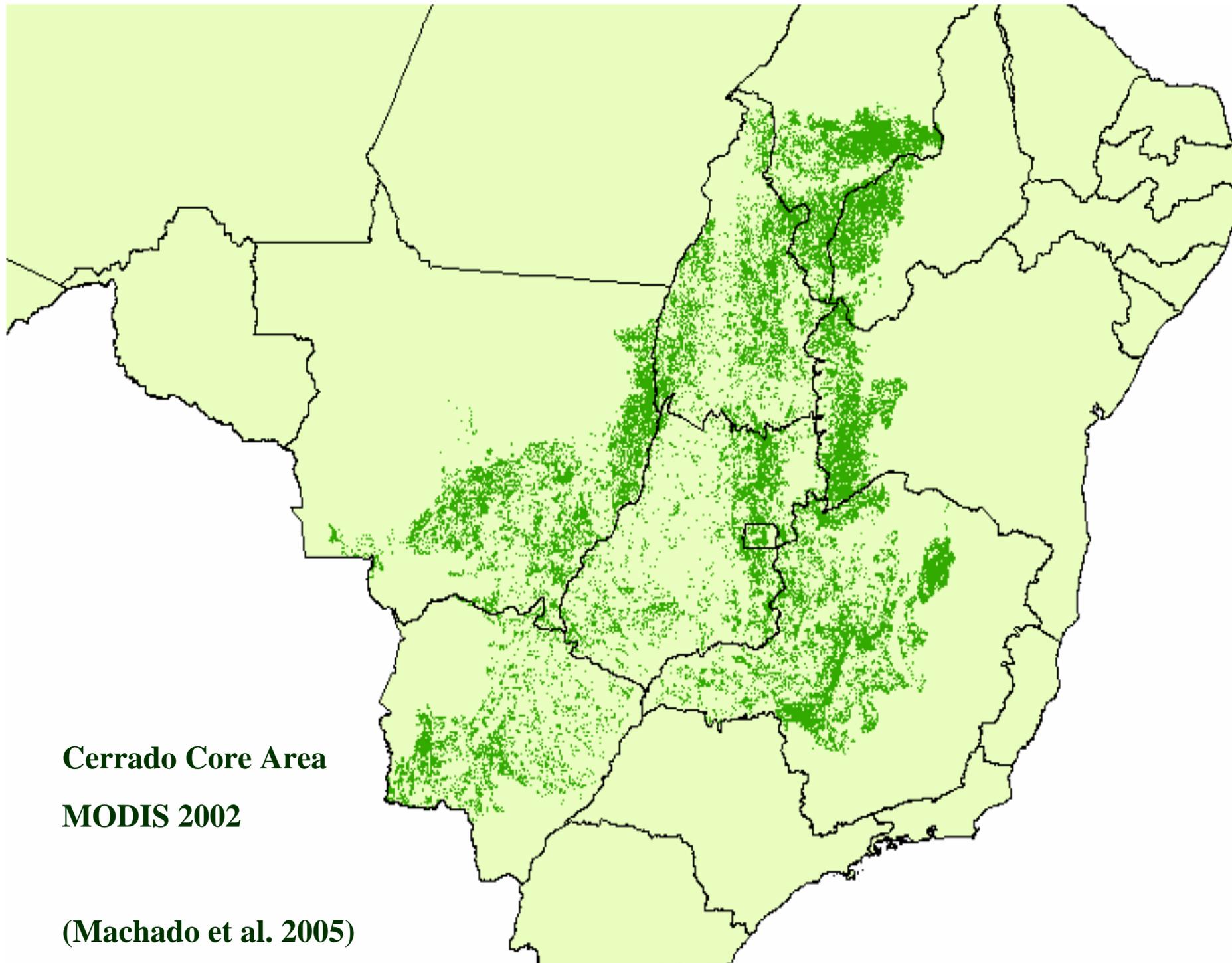
**This demand translates to the loss of 22 million
of forests and savannah, the size of Great Brita**





Footprint Example: Sweden









Problem: People and Nature Lose Out

- Large scale habitat loss
- Fragmentation of habitats
- Soil erosion
- Water pollution
- Land tenure conflicts
- Poor working conditions
- Impaired traditional land uses
- Infrastructure development





Solution: Two-Tier Approach: Source Responsibly and Engage Internationally

Tier 1: Short-term Basel Criteria

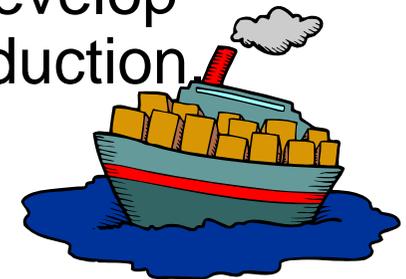
Basel Criteria for responsible soy production: pilot criteria tested in the field (no conversion of valuable forests, no GMOs, less pesticides, no child labor etc), three traders in Europe supply is available here and now.



Tier 2: Long-term RTRS

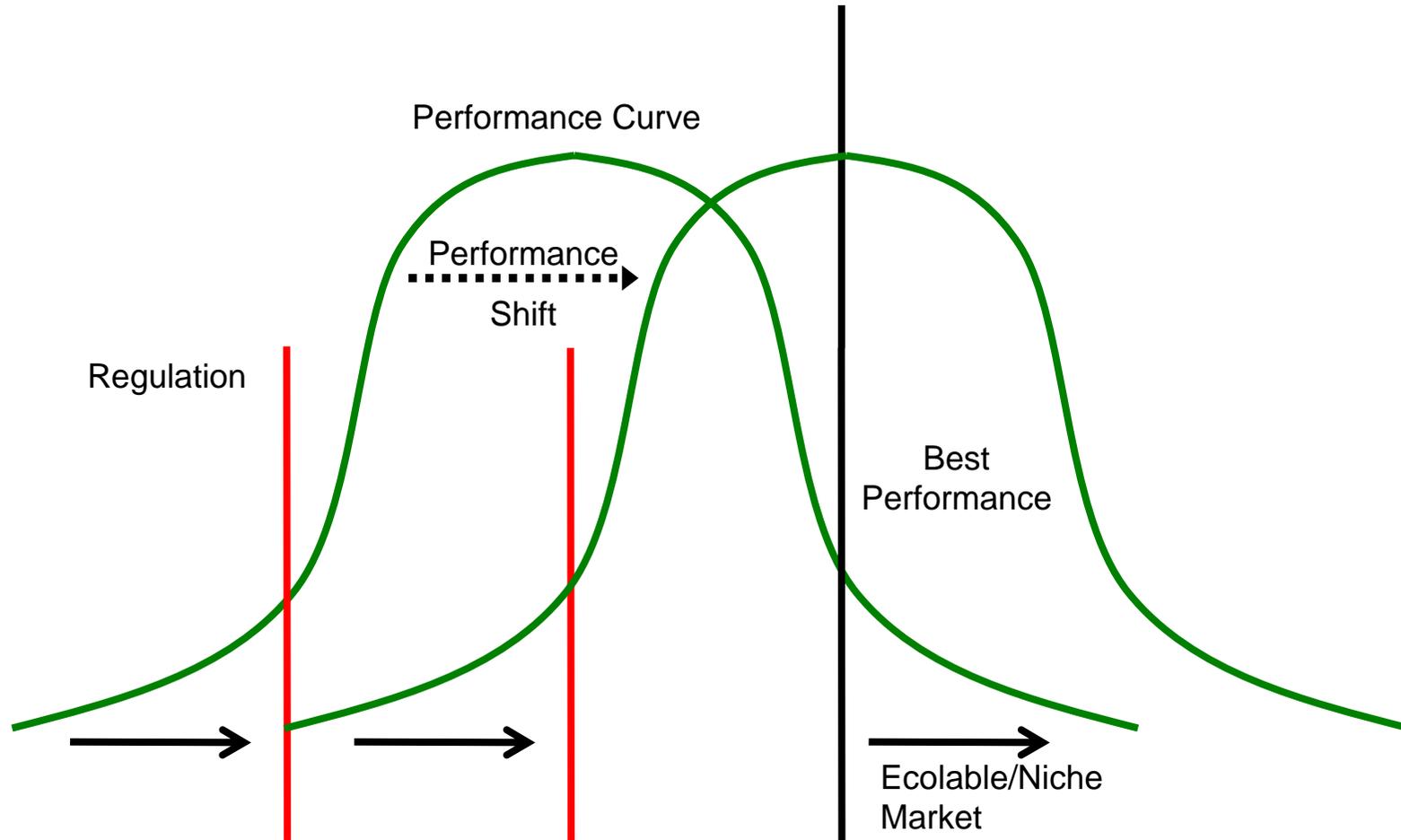
International roundtable discussion to jointly develop globally applicable criteria for smarter soy production.

Timeframe: at least two years





Accelerating Better Practice Adoption





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2. Current Status





Basel Criteria – The Pioneer Standard

- Pioneer effort by Coop: criteria developed in Aug 2004
- Includes key components for WWF:
 1. legal compliance
 2. Transparency: full traceability and independent control
 3. Environmental concerns:
 - No conversion of valuable habitats after 2004
 - compensatory measures for conversions 1995-2004
 - GMO free
 - Maintaining soil and water quality through better management practices
 4. Social issues ie. living wages and no child or forced labour





Basel Criteria – Current Status

The following companies and organizations support soy in compliance with Basel Criteria:

In Switzerland: Coop (retailer)

Fenaco (soy importer, compound feedstuff producer)

Baer (dairy product manufacturer)

Egli (importer)

Swiss Farmers' Association

Cert-ID (certifier)

IQS/TÜV Rheinland (certifier)

In Netherlands: Campina (dairy product manufacturer)

Cefetra (importer)

feed suppliers Hendris UTD (Nutreco), Agrifirm, Cehave

Landbouwbeland, Boerendbond Deurne and De Heus Brokking.

In Brazil: IMCOPA (producer), Agrenco (producer).





RTRS – a Global Commodity Dialogue

What?

Develop globally applicable criteria to switch mainstream production to more responsible practices

Who?

Stakeholders committed to improving conventional commodity production

Why?

- Halt the expansion threat to valuable habitat
- Get smarter about production economically, environmentally, socially

How?

Science-based roundtable discussion to reach consensus regarding key impacts, draft standards and global performance levels with acceptable impacts, with consultation process, create verification system





GMOs

“Genetically modified soy is currently being cultivated in major growing areas such as Argentina, many parts of Brazil, Paraguay and the USA. Opinions on the benefits and risks of biotechnology and the GM trend vary greatly. Individual Organizing Committee members have different standpoints on genetically modified soy. The Round Table process will not promote the production, processing or trading of either genetically modified or non-genetically modified soy.”

-- RTRS Common basis document





Ongoing Roundtables

Commodity	Places Impacted	Key Issues
Cotton	India, Pakistan, Brazil, China, West Africa	Pesticides, water, soil health, labor practices, community impacts
Sugarcane	Brazil, India, Honduras, East Africa, Vietnam, Australia, US	Wetlands & riparian areas, water, burning, agrochemicals, mill effluents, labor
Palm Oil	Indonesia, Malaysia, Honduras, Brazil, PNG	Habitat conversion, land rights, labor conditions, small growers
Bananas	Honduras, Belize, Guatemala	Agrochemicals, water, labor, small growers
Soy	Brazil, Bolivia, Argentina, Paraguay, US, China	<i>Land and labor rights, loss of livelihoods, migration, habitat conversion, soil health, agrochemicals</i>
Pineapple	Honduras, Guatemala	Agrochemicals, soil erosion, small growers
Shrimp	Belize, Indonesia, Madagascar, Mexico	Habitat conversion, land rights, disease, fishmeal/fishoil
Salmon	Chile, Norway, Canada and United States	Escapes, benthic impacts, disease, siting, fishmeal/fishoil





Approach: Multi-stakeholder Roundtables

Objectives

- Develop criteria for sustainable palm oil & soy
- Implement them in pilot projects
- Communicate to stakeholders and public

Participants

- Producers
- Investors
- NGOs
- Retailers
- Crushers, Traders
- Manufacturers

Process

The Roundtable is a process, not a single event





Current Status RTRS

Status:

- Membership organization since Nov 2006, currently 20 members
- Two global Roundtable conferences: March 2005, Aug 2006, next: April-May 2008
- high awareness among business and industry, burning NGO issue
- Interim Executive Board: President: ABN Amro, Treasurer: Solidaridad

Next steps:

- Fundraise and hire staff
- First General Assembly in May 2007 in Sao Paulo
- Set up of Principles, Criteria, and Verification Development Group





Members Status Feb 2007

AAPRESID

ABN Amro

Bunge

Grupo André Maggi

IPAM

MVO

Nevedi

Solidaridad

VION (pending)

Frieslandfoods (pending)

Large companies and NGOs

Smallholders, local NGOs

Observers

ABIOVE

Ahold (pending)

COOP

Guyrá Paraguay

Moore Foundation (pending)

Neste Oil

Nutreco

Unilever

WWF

IFC (pending)

€2,500 year

€250 year

€250 year





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3. Company Strategy





Working with Companies: Three Concrete Steps

1. Clear your chain of custody:
in what products and to what extent is soy present?
2. Public commitment:
recognize the negative impacts and commit to address these
3. Responsible procurement:
promote good practices by starting sourcing accordingly \Rightarrow Basel Criteria and become RTRS member





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Soybean fever transforms Paraguay

By Jane Monahan
Asuncion, Paraguay



A soybean boom has ignited in South America. It is fuelled largely by China's burgeoning demand for soy imports and projections that these will continue to surge, along with China's economic growth, for years to come.

So far, the countries caught up in the fever are Argentina and Brazil, South America's two largest nations, and Uruguay and Paraguay, two of the smallest.

Large investments have been made in soybean processing.

All four have increased soybean acreage at a prodigious rate.

Between 1990 and 2004, Argentina and Brazil increased the land under soybean cultivation by more than 236%, according to the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA).

Have Your Say Magazine In Pictures Week at a Glance Country Profiles

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TECHNOLOGIE

Regierung sucht nach Konzepten gegen den Teufelskreis von Rodung, Rinderzucht und Soja-Anbau

Brasiliens Agrarboom zerstört den Regenwald

Von Alexander Burch

Das brasilianische Umweltministerium schlägt Alarm: Der Regenwald schrumpft schneller als erwartet. Rund 26.000 Quadratkilometer des Gebietes am Amazonas wurden zwischen 2003 und 2004 gerodet, sechs Prozent mehr als im Vorjahreszeitraum. Das entspricht einer Fläche von knapp der Größe Belgiens und bedeutet die höchste Entwaldungsrate seit zehn Jahren.

HB MANAUS. Das Ministerium hatte bis zuletzt mit einem Zuwachs von maximal zwei Prozent gerechnet. Vor einem Jahr hatte die Regierung einen Plan zur Eindämmung der Regenwaldrodung vorgestellt. "Es ist noch zu früh, dass die Maßnahmen greifen konnten", verteidigte sich Umweltministerin Marina Silva. Der Grund für die nun im zweiten Jahr in Folge stark gestiegenen Entwaldungsraten ist, dass Brasiliens Wachstum vor allem vom Agrarboom angetrieben wird: Das Land ist heute der weltweit wichtigste Exporteur für Soja und Rindfleisch und wird bedeutsamer als Lieferant von Tropenholz.

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Neue Zürcher Zeitung AUSLAND Donnerstag, 09.01.2005 Nr. 6 5

Sojaäcker und Erdölfelder in Amazonien

Neuer Ansturm auf den Urwald in Brasilien

Trotz Beteuerungen an internationalen Umweltkongressen und nationalen Schutzregeln ist in Brasilien ein kaum beachteter Angriff auf den Primärwald im Amazonasbecken lanciert worden. Neben der Erschließung von Erdöl- und Gasvorkommen bildet die Ausweitung der Sojaproduktion das grösste ökologische Problem.



To conclude:



The issue is urgent!

What you can do: support and participate in the process by:

1. Sourcing Basel Criteria soy
2. Engage in the international roundtable





Thank you for your attention!

