



As part of our vision to be a positive force for change, we've produced a series of factsheets to help our customers better understand sustainability issues, and what we're doing about them.

## Overview

Soya is the main source of protein in our global food supply. Soya bean crops and the products derived from them feature in our food chain as an ingredient in products like tofu, soy sauce and meat substitutes.

More significantly however, over 70% of soya is used in animal feed and therefore an embedded, hidden ingredient in the supply chain for meat, eggs and dairy.



## What's the problem?

Soya bean meal is the main source of protein in the livestock industry and as populations have grown, so has the demand for diets to include more meat.

As a result, the demand and production of soya is also increasing around the world. However, it has now been recognised that this expansion in soya production is a key driver of deforestation and habitat conversion in producing countries, with impacts on both the environment and local communities.

## Our targets and plans

In our own brand products, we expect to use 100% deforestation and conversion free (DCF) soya by the end of 2030.

Our Action Plan to 2030 includes:

- By 2026 we aim to have in place a strategy and roadmap to DCF soya with each supplier of products containing soya or ADI (Animal Derived Ingredients)
- By 2030 we aim to have implemented all roadmaps and achieved DCF soya in our targeted products

However new legislation has been announced in both the UK and EU which affects and potentially supersedes our policy. At the time of writing we are waiting on more details and timelines to be provided by the UK government.

## Useful to know

### SOYA BEAN, SOYA OR SOY?

The term 'soya' and 'soy' are used interchangeably but the terms refer to the same product. Bidfood refers to all soya/soy products as soya.

It's an annual legume of the pea family (Fabaceae) and its edible seed. It's economically the most important bean in the world, providing vegetable protein for millions of people and ingredients for hundreds of chemical products.

## What can you do?

- Support sustainable soya production by also looking to source products containing verified deforestation and habitat conversion free soya
- Create a sustainable soya policy and start to have conversations with other suppliers around whether their soya is free from deforestation
- The more customer demand there is for this area, the greater the drive will be to move to a more sustainable supply chain
- Join roundtables and events created by Efecsa and other organisations to understand this area in more detail
- Consider buying certificates or credits through 'book and claim' trading to cover the soya in your supply chain. This can help support the shift to sustainable soya as the money goes to farms engaged in certified sustainable agriculture and can be a stepping stone to a verified sustainable soya supply chain

## Share your feedback

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