

17 May 2017

VANDEMOORTELE SOY SOURCING CHARTER

CONTEXT

Vandemoortele purchases soybean oil, mainly for use in margarines, and to a lesser extent other soy ingredients, such as soy flour, bran and flakes for use in bakery products. Soy is also embedded as animal feed in animal-derived products, such as dairy, eggs and meat. We use these in various of our products. Soy is grown in several parts of the world, including Brazil, Argentina and the USA. Most of the soy used in Europe is grown in South America. Unfortunately, an increasing amount of the soy produced in this region over the past two decades has resulted in a number of negative effects on the environment, as well as on local communities. A major issue relating to the environment is deforestation, together with its wider effects, such as loss of biodiversity and the emission of greenhouse gases. Another environmental problem is the use of unauthorised pesticides in growing soy. Social problems include the poor working conditions under which farm workers and others involved in the production of soy have to work. Land rights are also an issue when large-scale agriculture expands aggressively into new areas.

There is clearly an urgent need to transform the soy sector. As approximately 75% of soybean is used for animal feed, the feed sector has a significant role in leading this transformation. At the same time, food manufacturers will need to change the way in which they source soy through a strong focus on responsible sourcing in the supply chain.

A STRONG COMMITMENT

We believe it is our responsibility to supply our customers with soy products that have no connection whatsoever with deforestation, whether directly or in embedded form.

We have been a member of the Round Table on Responsible Soy (RTRS) since 2011. The RTRS Standard for Responsible Soy Production is applicable on a worldwide level and assures soy production that is socially equitable, economically feasible and environmentally sound. Vandemoortele has reported on its progress to the RTRS since 2015.

It is our aim to source for our consumer brands 100% certified sustainable soy, both direct and embedded, by the end of 2017. We make use of the RTRS credits system.

Jules Noten* CEO

*On behalf of Jules Noten Comm. V