

SDG Materiality Report

The Round Table on Responsible Soy Association (RTRS)

Business Guidance

About the Report

This SDG Materiality Report represents an important tool for businesses who wish to support the responsible soy transition.

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Design & Layout:

4PLUS4

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Preface

This SDG Materiality Report represents an important tool for businesses who wish to support the sustainable transition in agriculture. Critically, businesses should be supported who are committed to achieving sustainable and inclusive development that merges long-term profitability with social justice and environmental sustainability. This is particularly important in the context of soy, which is a forest risk commodity. At its peak, the unsustainable growing and harvesting of soybeans in the Mato Grosso state alone was responsible for 18.5% of total national annual deforestation in Brazil between 2001 and 2005¹. There is strong demand from both investors and civil society, along with ethically minded businesses and consumers, for clarity about the actual impact of organisational operations related to this commodity. This means that reporting on materiality is also about bringing more transparency to stakeholders and setting a higher degree of accountability for organisations involved in the soy sector.

It is the ambition of this report to:

- Support businesses who wish to illustrate and report their impact through their support of the Round Table on Responsible Soy Association (RTRS).
- Further strengthen the profile of RTRS and certified responsible soy - both in terms of familiarity with the certification and the impact associated with such preferential uptake.
- Provide a range of information on companies and brands that are RTRS certified to guide future consumption and champion brands leading in this domain.
- Provide an easy mechanism to send a message to industry leaders encouraging their sustained work to prioritise RTRS certified soy, and accordingly leverage further change and leadership by tracking these positive actions.
- Assist national governments (i.e., Amsterdam Declaration signatories²) in their goal of securing the import of 100% certified sustainable soy.
- Translate the support of sustainable soy into the common language of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

¹ Rautner et al. (2013) The Little Book of Big Deforestation Drivers. Global Canopy Programme, Oxford, UK

² <https://ad-partnership.org/>

The UN and Sustainable Development Goals

The United Nations is an international organisation with a mission to act towards confronting issues such as peace, security, human rights, climate change and sustainable development³.

In 2015, Member States of the United Nations agreed upon the Sustainable Development Agenda 2030, which included 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to be achieved within 15 years. This framework has been formulated to aid countries in ending poverty, fight inequality and injustice, and protect the planet. The SDG framework provides a holistic approach for addressing the world's most urgent sustainability challenges and formulating and executing plans for a better future. The success of the Agenda 2030 depends on the mutual effort of all parties in the society collaborating together, including NGOs and private sector businesses⁴.

The Agenda 2030 includes 17 goals, 169 targets, and 244 indicators that are intended to serve as a catalyst of positive change in the performance of corporations. As private firms begin to systematically report on the impact of their practices on sustainability factors, the increasing transparency can drive the change in business practices. The SDG framework can help companies report on their social, economic, and environmental performance.

3 United Nations (2019)

4 Global Reporting Initiative (2018)

Soy and Sustainability

Soy is a pervasive commodity with a variety of uses, including in food products (e.g., tofu, soy sauce, table oil), in animal feed, and, more recently, as a feedstock in biofuel production.⁵ Having previously been dubbed “the king of beans”, the global soy production is estimated to have increased 15 times since the 1950s. In response to the growing demand, driven primarily by the increased consumption in Asia, particularly China and India, in the early 2000s soybean cultivation expanded rapidly in the Amazon, a geography characterised by low land prices, fertile land, and lower labour costs⁶. As a result, in Brazil, and to a lesser extent also Paraguay and Bolivia, soya has been associated with the deforestation of tropical forests in the last twenty years. Despite the usefulness of soy as a versatile and efficient crop, there is clear evidence that soy that is not produced sustainably can have a strong negative impact on environmental and social sustainability factors, primarily through driving forest loss and relying on exploitative labour conditions. Given the widespread use of soy, combined with the potential for negative environmental and social externalities, there has been a growing concern in the global markets about developing solutions which can help identify and foster responsible soy supply chains.

Since 2006, the Round Table on Responsible Soy Association (RTRS) has been working to promote the growth of production, trade, and use of responsible soy through cooperation with players in and relevant to the soy value chain, from production to consumption. The RTRS is a global non-profit multi-stakeholder initiative, which includes producers, suppliers, trading companies, retailers, financial institutions, civil society organisations, and other relevant actors of the soy supply chain. Importantly, RTRS also sets the standards for responsible soy and chain of custody. Particularly the RTRS Standard for Responsible Soy Production seeks to ensure that RTRS soy not only meets the highest environmental criteria (including third party-verified zero deforestation and zero conversion) but also a wide-reaching set of social and labour requirements. It is based on five principles: Legal Compliance and Good Business Practices; Responsible Labour Conditions; Responsible Community Relations; Environmental Responsibility and Good Agricultural Practices that group together 108 indicators of mandatory accomplishment. In addition to the fact that RTRS certification is applicable worldwide to several commodities, continuous contact with producers confirmed the importance of creating synergies and opportunities to extend soybean certification to other grains, oils and seeds, mainly corn, a crop that is commonly included in the rotation with soy. Therefore, the RTRS Standard for Responsible Corn Production is an add-on to the existing soybean standard.

5 WWF (2017) <https://www.worldwildlife.org/industries/soy>

6 Rautner et al. (2013) *The Little Book of Big Deforestation Drivers*. Global Canopy Programme, Oxford, UK



Methodology

The methodology was developed in collaboration with Preferred by Nature. Preferred by Nature (formerly known as NEPCo) is an international non-profit organisation working with farmers, foresters, businesses, NGOs and governments to support better land management and business practices that benefit people, nature and the climate in more than 100 countries. For nearly 30 years, the organisation has worked to develop practical solutions to drive positive impacts in production landscapes and supply chains through innovative projects, capacity building and sustainability services.

In order to identify how the RTRS Standard for Responsible Soy Production contributes to the SDGs, the steps listed below were applied. The materials used in the methodology were 1) the 17 goals, 169 targets, and 244 indicators derived from the SDGs, and 2) the indicators derived from the 5 Principles of the RTRS Standard. The steps of the methodology were as follows:

- Step 1.** Generate keywords for each SDG indicator.
- Step 2.** The keywords created in step 1 are mapped to the RTRS indicators.
- Step 3.** The SDG indicators and RTRS indicators which shared the same keywords are identified.

More specifically, in the first step of the methodology all the SDG indicators were mapped to a specific keyword containing the essence of that indicator (see examples in Table 1). In total, 89 keywords were generated for the 244 SDG indicators. The indicators which address responsibilities and policies of governments were eliminated in this process, as this report is addressed to the business sector.

Table 1. Examples of SDG indicators and the generated keywords

| SDGs Indicators | | Keyword |
|-----------------|---|---------------------------|
| 16.7.2 | Proportion of population who believe decision-making is inclusive and responsive, by sex, age, disability and population group | Inclusive decision-making |
| 16.10.1 | Number of verified cases of killing, kidnapping, enforced disappearance, arbitrary detention and torture of journalists, associated media personnel, trade unionists and human rights advocates in the previous 12 months | Human rights |

The 89 keywords were then applied to the RTRS indicators, as listed in the 4.0 version of the Standard⁷ published in 2021. In the case that there was more than one keyword that could be associated with an RTRS indicator, all the keywords were used. Table 2 shows such an example.

⁷ RTRS Standard for Responsible Soy Production V4.0 <https://responsiblesoy.org/documentos/rtrs-standard-for-responsiblesoy-production-v4-0?lang=en>

Table 2. Example of an RTRS indicator and its matching keywords

| RTRS Indicators | | Keyword 1 | Keyword 2 |
|-----------------|---|-------------------|--------------------------|
| 2.5.7 | Salaried workers have all entitlements and protection in national law and practice with respect to maternity. Workers taking maternity leave are entitled to return to their employment on the same terms and conditions that applied to them prior to taking leave and they are not subject to any discrimination, loss of seniority or deductions of wages. | Decent employment | Reproductive health care |

For the RTRS indicators which had no matching keywords, SDG targets which share similar content were used (Table 3).

Table 3. Example of matching an RTRS indicator and its matching SDG target

| RTRS Indicators | | Keywords | SDGs target 1 | SDGs target 2 |
|-----------------|---|----------|---------------|---------------|
| 2.5.6 | Overtime work at all times is voluntary and paid according to legal or sector standards. In case overtime work is needed, workers receive timely notification. Workers are entitled to at least one day off following every six consecutive days of work. | No match | 8.5 | 8.8 |

Finally, the matched SDG indicators or SDG targets were listed for each RTRS indicator. Table 4 shows an example where two RTRS Indicators are listed alongside their corresponding SDGs. From this table, the connection between the RTRS and the SDGs is completely clear.

Table 4. Examples of matching RTRS indicators, SDG targets and SDG indicators

| RTRS Indicators | | SDGs indicator 1 | SDGs indicator 2 | SDGs target 1 | SDGs target 2 |
|-----------------|--|------------------|------------------|---------------|---------------|
| 2.5.4 | <p>If additional overtime hours are necessary, the following conditions are met:</p> <p>a) It only occurs for limited periods of time (e.g. peak harvest, planting).</p> <p>b) Where there is a trade union or representative organization the overtime conditions are negotiated and agreed with that organization.</p> <p>c) Where there is no trade union or representative organization agreement the average working hours in the two-month period after the start of the exceptional period still do not exceed 60 hours per week.</p> | - | - | 8.5 | 8.8 |
| 4.5.2 | There is a plan, which is being implemented and monitored to ensure that the native vegetation and wildlife are being maintained. | 15.2.1 | 6.6.1 | - | - |

How the RTRS Corresponds to the SDGs

Summary

This report provides systematic guidance for businesses committed to supporting the responsible soy transition, contributing to fostering inclusive development that will support long term social and environmental sustainability. In response to the demand from stakeholders from the soy industry and civil society, this business guidance can become an important tool to assess and justify concrete contributions to SDGs.

The authors of this document propose a comprehensive three steps methodology, mapping the contribution to the SDGs on a target/indicator level and providing examples of supporting case studies.

The RTRS Standard for Responsible Soy Production, version 4.0 has been proven to make a cross-cutting contribution to the SDGs, with a particularly strong alignment with four SDGs: #2 (Zero Hunger), #8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), #12 (Responsible Production and Consumption) #15 (Life on Land). The mapping conducted as part of preparing this report demonstrates that the RTRS makes a pronounced, cross-cutting contribution to the Agenda 2030, with certification according to the Standard helping foster decent employment, preserve the natural environment, promote sustainable agricultural practices, and promote a peaceful, prosperous, and fair society.

SDGs #7, #14, and #17 have not been included in this study as they have been found to have little alignment with the scope of action of the Standard.



Table 5. SDGs and the matching RTRS indicators - The following table outlines the number of RTRS Indicators (RTRS Standard for Responsible Soy Production version 4.0) that matches to the specific SDG targets and indicators. The specific numbers of matches denoted by the legend below is further substantiated in the Appendix and in the specific SDG examples found below.

| SDG / RTRS | PRINCIPLE 1 Legal Compliance and Good Business | PRINCIPLE 2 Responsible Labour Conditions | PRINCIPLE 3 Responsible Community Relations | PRINCIPLE 4 Environmental Responsibility | PRINCIPLE 5 Good Agricultural Practices |
|--|---|--|--|---|--|
| #1 NO POVERTY | ● | ● | ● | | |
| #2 ZERO HUNGER | | ● | | ■ | ▲ |
| #3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING | | ● | | | |
| #4 QUALITY EDUCATION | | ● | ● | | ● |
| #5 GENDER EQUALITY | | ● | | | |
| #6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION | | ● | | ● | ■ |
| #8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH | | ▲ | ● | | ● |
| #9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE | | | | ● | |
| #10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES | ● | ● | ● | | |
| #11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES | | ● | ● | ● | ● |
| #12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION | | | | ■ | ● |
| #13 CLIMATE ACTION | | | | ● | ● |
| #15 LIFE ON LAND | | | | ■ | ▲ |
| #16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS | ● | ● | ● | | |

▲ Over 20 matches ■ 11-20 matches ● 1-10 matches



NO POVERTY

SDG #1 aims to eradicate poverty in all its forms and dimensions by 2030. People living in extreme poverty struggle to fulfil their most basic needs, including establishing access to health care, education, water and sanitation, and more. In 2015, more than 700 million people (10% of the world's population) lived in extreme poverty - surviving on less than \$1.90/a day. The overall number of people living in extreme poverty has declined since 1990. However, the COVID-19 pandemic has contributed to the reversing of the trend.⁸

The RTRS Standard supports SDG 1 by ensuring that workers on certified farms are fairly compensated for their work, and that local communities and indigenous peoples have sustained access to economic resources, crucially, through retaining their legal land rights.

SDG TARGETS AND RELATED RTRS INDICATORS

| SDG Targets | RTRS Indicators |
|--|---|
| <p>1.1 By 2030, eradicate extreme poverty for all people everywhere, currently measured as people living on less than \$1.25 a day.</p> <p>1.2 By 2030, reduce at least by half the proportion of men, women and children of all ages living in poverty in all its dimensions according to national definitions.</p> | <p>RTRS: 2.5.8</p> <p>RTRS requires that a normal working day of 8 hours earns workers at least the national or sector established minimum wage.</p> |
| <p>1.4 By 2030, ensure that all men and women, in particular the poor and the vulnerable, have equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to basic services, ownership and control over land and other forms of property, inheritance, natural resources, appropriate new technology and financial services, including microfinance.</p> | <p>RTRS: 1.2.1, 2.1.2, 3.2.1, 3.2.2, 3.2.4</p> <p>RTRS requires that workers should retain exclusive control over identity papers, salary, benefits, and property (2.1.2). Moreover, the Standard requires that producers are able to document the legal evidence of right to use the land, and that in case of a dispute a community rights assessment is conducted, including identification of sites of special importance, thus ensuring that local and indigenous communities can continue their land use and preserve land rights (1.2.1, 3.2.1, 3.2.2, 3.2.4).</p> |

SDG 1: Case study

Title: RTRS certification in Mozambique (2017-2019)

Organisation: Solidaridad Network & Sustainable Pork Value Chain Association

Location: Mozambique, Africa

Case: Responsible soy is economically viable, socially beneficial, and environmentally appropriate. The Sustainable Pork Value Chain Association from The Netherlands (in Dutch, Keten Duurzaam Varkensvlees, KDV) and Solidaridad Network carried out a project to give support to 2,000 soy farmers to become RTRS certified through introducing sustainable farming methods. In the first year (2017) of the project, two Producers' Associations, Associação Nsuzumire and Associação Agropecuária Tilimbique, received support for members willing to obtain RTRS certification. This means that 223 producers were certified in the country (including acquisition of land rights).





ZERO HUNGER

SDG #2 seeks to not only end hunger but also help achieve food security, improve nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture. Sustainable development cannot be achieved without eradicating extreme hunger and malnutrition. In 2018, there were about 2 billion people who were affected by severe food insecurity, a statistic which has increased over 20% since 2014.^{9,10}

As sustainable agricultural practices have a crucial potential for addressing food scarcity, RTRS supports goal #2 comprehensively, with more than 35 indicators contributing to achieving SDG #2.

SDG TARGETS AND RELATED RTRS INDICATORS

| SDG Targets | RTRS Indicators |
|--|--|
| <p>2.1 By 2030, end hunger and ensure access by all people, in particular the poor and people in vulnerable situations, including infants, to safe, nutritious and sufficient food all year round.</p> | <p>RTRS: 2.5.9</p> <p>RTRS indicator 2.5.9 requires that all employees living on the farm are provided with affordable food. Moreover, potable water is to be supplied to all workers inside the farm.</p> |
| <p>2.3 By 2030, double the agricultural productivity and incomes of small-scale food producers, in particular women, indigenous peoples, family farmers, pastoralists and fishers, including through secure and equal access to land, other productive resources and inputs, knowledge, financial services, markets and opportunities for value addition and non-farm employment.</p> | <p>RTRS: 5.3.1, 5.3.2, 5.3.3</p> <p>To increase the income of workers in the supply chain, sufficient yield is needed. Practices to maintain and improve soil fertility to sustain agricultural yield are mentioned in the RTRS Principle 5, including monitoring and maintaining of soil quality.</p> |

9 SDG 2 <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/hunger/>

10 SDG 2 https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/wp-content/uploads/2016/08/2_Why-It-Matters-2020.pdf

| SDG Targets | RTRS Indicators |
|--|--|
| <p>2.4 By 2030, ensure sustainable food production systems and implement resilient agricultural practices that increase productivity and production, that help maintain ecosystems, that strengthen capacity for adaptation to climate change, extreme weather, drought, flooding and other disasters and that progressively improve land and soil quality.</p> | <p>RTRS: 4.2.1, 4.2.5, 4.3.3, 4.3.4, 4.4.1, 4.4.2, 4.5.3, 4.5.4, 5.1.1, 5.1.4, 5.3.2, 5.3.3, 5.3.4, 5.4.1, 5.4.2, 5.4.3, 5.4.4, 5.4.5, 5.5.1, 5.5.2, 5.5.3, 5.5.5, 5.6.1, 5.6.2, 5.7.1, 5.7.2, 5.8.1, 5.9.1, 5.9.3, 5.10.1, 5.11.1, 5.11.2</p> <p>Fostering sustainable food production is at the heart of RTRS Standard. Through Principles 4 and 5, RTRS requires that all certified soy producers follow an array of agricultural practices centred around environmental responsibility (see the More information box below).</p> |
| <p>2.5 By 2020, maintain the genetic diversity of seeds, cultivated plants and farmed and domesticated animals and their related wild species, including through soundly managed and diversified seed and plant banks at the national, regional and international levels, and promote access to and fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilisation of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge, as internationally agreed.</p> | <p>RTRS: 4.5.3, 5.11.1, 5.11.2</p> <p>RTRS certified producers are required to control the origin of the seeds they use, in order to improve production and prevent introduction of new diseases. Self-propagated seeds may only be used if seed production norms and IP legal requirements are met. Endemic, rare, threatened or endangered species permanently or temporary present at the property are to be protected (4.5.3).</p> |
| <p>2.a Increase investment, including through enhanced international cooperation, in rural infrastructure, agricultural research and extension services, technology development and plant and livestock gene banks in order to enhance agricultural productive capacity in developing countries, in particular least developed countries.</p> | <p>RTRS: 4.2.2, 4.2.3, 4.2.4, 4.2.5</p> <p>The RTRS contributes to increasing agricultural productive capacity by requiring producers to provide adequate waste storage and recycling solutions (4.2.2, 4.2.4), facilities preventing spills of oils and other pollutants (4.2.3), and residue management plants (4.2.5).</p> |

SDG 2: Case study

Title: The experience of smallholder RTRS-certified producers in India

Organisation: Arvind Limited (since 2013); Ish Agritech Private Limited (since 2021); Landmark Agri Exports (in 2022); Mahaveer Udhyog (since 2020); and Noble Ecotech (in 2022)

Location: India

Case: Between 2013 and 2022, almost 50,000 producers in India certified more than 83,450 hectares and 187,500 tons of soy under then RTRS Standard for Responsible Soy Production.

In India, certified producers are smallholders of 2 to 3 ha on average. RTRS certified soy producers in this country are organized under Group Certification and comply with the 108 mandatory certification indicators applicable worldwide in accordance with RTRS five principles: Legal Compliance and Good Business Practices; Responsible Labour Conditions; Responsible Community Relations; Environmental Responsibility, and Good Agricultural Practices.

Producers assure that certification and specifically the implementation of good agricultural practices significantly improve task efficiency in farm management, which translates into soil protection and better water management, as well as improvement of employee motivation and relationship with neighbors and communities.

More information

RTRS Principle 4 seeks to foster environmental responsibility in soy production. Principle 4 identifies the areas where soy production has the potential to generate significant negative environmental impacts and which is to be addressed accordingly by RTRS certified producers, including through: no intentional burning on property (4.2.1), preparing a residue management plan (4.2.5), monitoring soil quality (4.3.3), carbon sequestration (4.3.4), identifying the areas which should not be cleared or converted (4.4.1), protection of rare, threatened or endangered species (4.5.3), and conservation activities to promote wildlife and restoration of native vegetation (4.5.4). RTRS Principle 5 focuses on good agricultural practices, helping ensure sustainable and resilient food production. Producers are required to introduce a number of solutions to increase productivity and production, including irrigation (5.1.4), crop rotation (5.3.4), reducing use of potentially harmful phytosanitary and agrochemical products (5.4.2, 5.4.3, 5.4.4, 5.5.1, 5.5.2, 5.5.3, 5.6.1, 5.9.1 and 5.9.2). In addition, pests, diseases, weeds and natural predators are to be monitored (5.4.5) and usage of fertilizers and biological control agents is to be according to professional recommendations (5.5.5). Seeds are to be purchased from reliable sources (5.11.1) and the use of self-propagated seeds is to follow legal requirements regarding intellectual property rights (5.11.2).



| कृषि कार्य | अनुपात | विवरण |
|-----------------|--------|-------|
| (शिमला + मक्का) | 4:2 | |
| (शिमला + ज्वार) | 4:2 | |
| (शिमला + ज्वार) | 4:2 | |

एक. एम. जी. टा. कार्यक्रम



GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

Goal #3 aims to ensure healthy lives for all and to promote well-being, both of which are essential to ensuring the social component of the sustainable development agenda. Since the launch of the SDGs, the overall access to healthcare services and to other measures aiding physical and mental wellbeing has improved significantly in many geographic areas; however, the progress has been uneven between and within countries. Furthermore, the COVID-19 pandemic has weighed heavily on healthcare systems and has threatened the already achieved public health outcomes.¹¹

The RTRS Standard assigns a central importance to the health and well-being of the workers. The Standard features several indicators which address matters of reproductive health, first aid, and occupational health risks.

SDG TARGETS AND RELATED RTRS INDICATORS

| SDG Targets | RTRS Indicators |
|--|--|
| 3.7 By 2030, ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health-care services, including for family planning, information and education, and the integration of reproductive health into national strategies and programmes. | RTRS: 2.5.7 RTRS requires that salaried workers have all entitlements and protection in national law and practice regarding maternity leave (2.5.7). |
| 3.8 Achieve universal health coverage, including financial risk protection, access to quality essential health-care services and access to safe, effective, quality and affordable essential medicines and vaccines for all. | RTRS: 2.3.7 First aid and medical assistance are to be provided to all workers (2.3.7). |
| 3.9 By 2030, substantially reduce the number of deaths and illnesses from hazardous chemicals and air, water and soil pollution and contamination. | RTRS: 2.3.1, 2.3.2, 2.3.4, 2.3.5, 2.3.6 RTRS Principle 2 requires producers to provide a healthy workplace for all workers, including improving both producers' and employees' understanding of occupational health issues (2.3.1) and identification and management of risks to workers' health (2.3.2, 2.3.5, 2.3.6), including use of protective equipment and clothing (2.3.4). |

SDG 3: Case study

Title: Social and labor aspects at RTRS certified farm Fazendas Progresso

Organisation: Grupo Progresso

Location: Piauí, Brazil

Global scope: RTRS Standard for Responsible Soy Production Principles & Criteria

Case: Grupo Progresso (including seven farms in the state of Piauí and one in Minas Gerais, Brazil) certifies their soy production at Fazenda Progresso, Fazenda Rainha da Serra Soja and Fazenda Ouro Branco Soja in Piauí, Brazil, pursuant to RTRS principles and criteria. At Fazenda Progresso, employees have guaranteed access to training sessions on the correct and safe execution of their tasks and to personal protection elements. Their well-being in their work environment is also ensured through: providing access to fully-equipped and staffed nursing facilities in the farm, which also include an Advanced Life Support (ALS) Ambulance available 24 hours to assist in any emergency; quality food prepared according to a menu specially developed by nutritionists; access to spaces for training and recreational activities, among others.





QUALITY EDUCATION

Education is key for escaping poverty, and has been identified as one of the most powerful and well-proven ways for fostering sustainable development. Goal #4 aims to ensure inclusive and quality education for all, including providing equal access to vocational training and higher education. Access to education and school enrolment rate at all levels, as well as literacy rate, particularly for girls, have increased significantly over the past decade. However, more than half of all children and adolescents globally remain under the minimum proficiency standards in reading and mathematics.¹²

RTRS supports SDG #4 by ensuring that children of direct employees have access to education and encouraging provision of vocational training as well as education on sustainable agricultural practices to members of local communities.

SDG TARGETS AND RELATED RTRS INDICATORS

| SDG Targets | RTRS Indicators |
|--|---|
| 4.1 By 2030, ensure that all girls and boys complete free, equitable and quality primary and secondary education leading to relevant and effective learning outcomes | RTRS: 2.1.6 All children of direct employees living on the farm must have access to school education. |
| 4.4 By 2030, substantially increase the number of youth and adults who have relevant skills, including technical and vocational skills, for employment, decent jobs and entrepreneurship. | RTRS: 3.4.2 The RTRS indicator 3.4.2 requires that whenever possible, collaboration with training programs should be established to promote employment opportunities for members of the local communities. |
| 4.7 By 2030, ensure that all learners acquire the knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development, including, among others, through education for sustainable development and sustainable lifestyles, human rights, gender equality, promotion of a culture of peace and non-violence, global citizenship and appreciation of cultural diversity and of culture's contribution to sustainable development. | RTRS: 5.3.2, 5.3.3 By requiring that producers demonstrate knowledge of techniques to maintain soil quality (5.3.2) and to control soil erosion (5.3.3), the RTRS Principle 5 contributes to educating more industry professionals about sustainable agricultural practices. |

¹² SDG 4 <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/education/>

SDG 4: Case study

Title: Training for farmers

Organisation: Colruyt Group, Cresol Estrada de Ferro, TRIAS, Solidaridad Network and RTRS

Location: Goiás, Brazil

Global scope: RTRS Standard for Responsible Soy Production Principles & Criteria

Case: Belgian Colruyt Group (retailer) and TRIAS (NGO), together with Solidaridad Network, and Cresol rural cooperative, from Brazil, provided joint training to farmers on property, documentation, waste and infrastructure sustainable management, and encouraging crop diversification. This initiative reached 27 small farmers from Goiás, Brazil, meaning 30.000 RTRS certified tons of soy.





GENDER EQUALITY

Ensuring equality of treatment and opportunities for all has been considered an essential contributor to fostering sustainable development. SDG #5 aims to achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls. Numerous challenges remain globally regarding this goal, e.g., ensuring equal access to education for women and girls, eradicating child marriage. Although gender equality indicators have recorded increases in past two decades, including a rise in the number of girls in school and women on the labour market, there remains a big gap to be closed to achieve the goal.¹³

The RTRS Standard contributes to achieving SDG #5 as it seeks to ensure that female employees receive equal remuneration for their work and are presented with equal opportunities, and that they are not subject to violence or intimidation.

SDG TARGETS AND RELATED RTRS INDICATORS

| SDG Targets | RTRS Indicators |
|---|---|
| 5.1 End all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere. | RTRS: 2.1.7, 2.1.8, 2.5.7, 2.5.8 RTRS Principle 2 on responsible labour conditions seeks to assure that no discrimination takes place in the workplaces (2.1.7) and that all workers should receive equal remuneration (2.1.7), as well as security of employment for workers returning from maternity leave (2.5.7). Moreover, both men and women are entitled to payment of national or sector established minimum wage (2.5.8). |
| 5.2 Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation. | RTRS: 2.1.9 Employees are required to be free from any kind of intimidation. |
| 5.5 Ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life. | RTRS: 2.1.7 The Standard requires that all workers should receive equal opportunities for promotion and filling available positions. |

SDG 5: Case study

Title: As signatory of the United Nations Declaration to promote gender equality, RTRS has adjusted its Standard for Responsible Soy Production version 4 to include gender equality terminology in line with SDG Goal 5

Organisation: RTRS, UN

Location: Global

Case: In 2019, RTRS signed the United Nations Declaration on Integrating a Gender Perspective in Technical Standards and Regulations, and within its Development Process. This important declaration acknowledges Goal 5 of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) set forth in the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: Achieve Gender Equality and Empower all Women and Girls. In line with the Declaration, version 4 of the RTRS Standard for Responsible Soy Production published in 2021 intends to adjust the standard to gender equality terminology in line with the SDG Goal 5.





CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION

Goal #6 aims to ensure access to safe water sources and sanitation for all. It is projected that more than 40% of people are going to be affected by water scarcity as a result of the advancing climate change¹⁴. In 2017, 3 billion people were not able to safely wash their hands at home¹⁵. At the same time, ensuring universal access to sanitation and safe and affordable drinking water, sanitation and facilities requires the construction and maintenance of adequate infrastructure, which continues to pose a challenge in many countries.

The RTRS Standard supports SDG #6 as it features a number of indicators which ensure that workers on RTRS certified farms have access to sanitation and to drinking and potable water, as well as indicators addressing efficient water use and protection of water-related ecosystems, both of which remain under-addressed in agriculture, in spite of the high potential of negative impacts from food production.

SDG TARGETS AND RELATED RTRS INDICATORS

| SDG Targets | RTRS Indicators |
|---|---|
| 6.1 By 2030, achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all. | RTRS: 2.5.9 RTRS indicator 2.5.9 requires that potable water is supplied to all workers inside the farm. |
| 6.2 By 2030, achieve access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all and end open defecation, paying special attention to the needs of women and girls and those in vulnerable situations. | RTRS: 2.5.9 All employees living on the farm are to be provided access to toilets and handwashing facilities, with living quarters being equipped with basic sanitation. |

¹⁴ SDG 6 <https://www.undp.org/sustainable-development-goals#clean-water-and-sanitation>

¹⁵ SDG 6 https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/wp-content/uploads/2016/08/6_Why-It-Matters-2020.pdf

| SDG Targets | RTRS Indicators |
|---|--|
| <p>6.3 By 2030, improve water quality by reducing pollution, eliminating dumping and minimizing release of hazardous chemicals and materials, halving the proportion of untreated wastewater and substantially increasing recycling and safe reuse globally.</p> | <p>RTRS: 5.1.1, 5.1.2, 5.1.3, 5.9.4, 5.9.5</p> <p>RTRS Principle 5 requires that good agricultural practices are implemented that minimise impact from chemical residues, fertilizers, and erosion on surface and ground water quality (5.1.1, 5.1.2). In case there is any contamination, it is to be reported to and monitored with local authorities (5.1.3). The use of pesticides in proximity of water bodies is also to be minimised (5.9.4, 5.9.5).</p> |
| <p>6.4 By 2030, substantially increase water-use efficiency across all sectors and ensure sustainable withdrawals and supply of freshwater to address water scarcity and substantially reduce the number of people suffering from water scarcity.</p> | <p>RTRS: 5.1.5</p> <p>For the activities that require the biggest volume of water use, the producer is required to find a way to monitor it. Actions are to be implemented to reduce water use wherever possible (5.1.5).</p> |
| <p>6.5 By 2030, implement integrated water resources management at all levels, including through transboundary cooperation as appropriate.</p> | <p>RTRS: 5.1.4</p> <p>The Standard requires that irrigation use on the certified farms follows legislation and applies best practices (5.1.4).</p> |
| <p>6.6 By 2020, protect and restore water-related ecosystems, including mountains, forests, wetlands, rivers, aquifers and lakes.</p> | <p>RTRS: 4.4.1, 4.4.2, 4.2.5, 5.1.1, 5.1.2, 5.1.3, 5.2.1, 5.2.2, 5.2.3</p> <p>RTRS ensures protection of water-related ecosystems through protecting groundwater from impact of chemical residues (4.2.5, 5.1.1), fertilisers, and erosion (5.1.1), as well as maintaining wetlands and native vegetation along springs and watercourses (5.2.1, 5.2.2, 5.2.3). The Standard emphasises the importance of maintaining forests, natural wetlands and riparian vegetation (4.4.1) and ceasing conversion of natural land (5.2.2, 5.2.3).</p> |

SDG 6: Case study

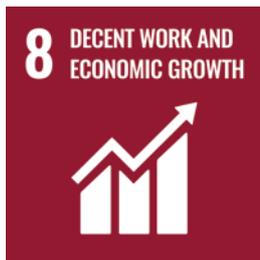
Title: Zooming in on the water management and protection practices of RTRS certified producers

Organisation: RTRS certified producers

Location: Global scope: RTRS Standard for Responsible Soy Production Principles & Criteria

Case: RTRS producers' practices include crop rotation, soil protection, soil testing, and protection of watercourses. They protect watercourses, springs and streams in compliance with RTRS rules. In addition, they have to follow the protocols for water analysis and control, and ensure that the water is indeed clean, even if it is in the middle of a farm. Take a look at these experiences by watching the virtual field trip held in December 2021: <https://youtu.be/lhqPPiXNAmo>.





DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

Goal #8 focuses on achieving sustainable economic growth by ensuring that financial progress is accompanied by the creation of decent and fulfilling jobs for all. This includes protection of labour rights and improvement of working conditions, eradication of forced and child labour, and ensuring that the benefits of innovation and entrepreneurship can be enjoyed by all equally, by providing universal access to education, training, and financial and banking services. Ensuring decent work is particularly crucial in the case of soy production, where issues with illegal employment and improper labour conditions¹⁶, health and safety hazards, lack of health and safety and professional training¹⁷, and decrease in job opportunities for local communities have all been observed¹⁸.

RTRS certification contributes to SDG #8 via five SDG Targets (8.3, 8.5, 8.6, 8.7, 8.8) related to: job creation, decent labour conditions, training and opportunities for young workers, eradicating child labour, respecting labour rights, and improving health and safety in the working environment.

SDG TARGETS AND RELATED RTRS INDICATORS

| SDG Targets | RTRS Indicators |
|---|---|
| <p>8.3. Promote development-oriented policies that support productive activities, decent job creation, entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation, and encourage the formalisation and growth of micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises, including through access to financial services.</p> | <p>RTRS: 3.4.1, 3.4.2, 3.4.3</p> <p>Indicator 3.4.3 requires that opportunities for the supply of goods and services which are central to production activities should be offered to local communities. In this way, responsible soy production can establish fair and adequately compensated jobs for the local population. The associated RTRS indicators 3.4.1 and 3.4.2 also require that all employment opportunities to be made known locally, and for training programs to be provided for the local population, including indigenous peoples, further ensuring that RTRS companies contribute to creating sustainable employment opportunities.</p> |

¹⁶ Mendelson Lima, Margaret Skutsch, & Gerlane de Medeiros Costa. (2011). Deforestation and the Social Impacts of Soy for Biodiesel: Perspectives of Farmers in the South Brazilian Amazon. *Ecology and Society*, 16(4). Retrieved from <https://www.cifor.org/knowledge/publication/3587/>

¹⁷ KPMG, IDH, WWF, FMO, & IFC. (2013). Sustainable Insight: A roadmap to responsible soy.

¹⁸ The Dutch Soy Coalition. (2008). Soy Big Business, Big Responsibility: Addressing the social- and environmental impact of the soy value chain. Retrieved August 15, 2019, from <https://www.bothends.org/en/Whats-new/Publicaties/Soy--Big-business-big-responsibility-Addressing-the-social-and-environmental-impact-of-the-soy-value-chain/>

| SDG Targets | RTRS Indicators |
|--|---|
| <p>8.5. By 2030, achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men, including for young people and persons with disabilities, and equal pay for work of equal value.</p> | <p>RTRS: 2.1.4, 2.1.5, 2.1.6, 2.1.7, 2.5.1, 2.5.2, 2.5.4, 2.5.5, 2.5.6, 2.5.8</p> <p>The Standard addresses in-depth the issue of child and underage labour (2.1.4, 2.1.5). Moreover, SDG Target 8.5 also matches with 8 RTRS indicators which cover the issue of equal remuneration for all employees. This includes paying at least the national or sector established minimum wage to all men and women working 8 hour days (2.5.8) and monthly payment of gross wages to all workers (2.5.1). Unless legally permitted, reductions from wages for disciplinary purposes are not allowed (2.5.2). Wages and benefits are to be clearly communicated to employees, and disbursed in a manner that is most convenient to them (2.5.2). By ensuring flexibility of wages disbursement, the RTRS standard helps prevent financial exclusion of workers who do not have access to banking services. Wages paid are to be recorded by the employer (2.5.2) which removes the responsibility from the employee's side and helps ensure transparency and future accountability. The provisions of indicator 2.5.2 cover both permanent and seasonal workers, helping ensure equal treatment of all employees regardless of their status.</p> |
| <p>8.6. By 2020, substantially reduce the proportion of youth not in employment, education or training.</p> | <p>RTRS: 2.1.4, 2.1.5</p> <p>In line with the ILO Conventions 138 on Minimum Age and 182 on Worst Forms of Child Labour, RTRS indicator 2.1.5 allows children below 15 to participate in light work and agricultural activities on family farms, through which they can gain technical and social skills and improve their family's food security. This provided that such light duties are not hazardous, unsafe, or unhealthy, and that they do not interfere with the children's schooling. Moreover, children below the age of 18 must not do hazardous work or any work that is likely to jeopardize their well-being (2.1.4).</p> |

| SDG Targets | RTRS Indicators |
|--|--|
| <p>8.7. Take immediate and effective measures to eradicate forced labour, end modern slavery and human trafficking and secure the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labour, including recruitment and use of child soldiers, and by 2025 end child labour in all its forms.</p> | <p>RTRS: 2.1.1, 2.1.2, 2.1.3, 2.1.4, 2.1.5, 2.1.6, 2.1.7</p> <p>SDG Target 8.7 matches with 4 RTRS indicators that require that child and forced labour are not in any way encouraged or supported by RTRS certified companies at any stage of production. This includes the banning of use of all forms of involuntary labour (2.1.1), as well as ensuring that the spouses of children of contracted workers are not obliged to work on the farm (2.1.3). Children below the age of 18 are prohibited from doing hazardous work or any work that can jeopardise their wellbeing (2.1.4), while children below 15 are not allowed to carry out any form of productive work (2.1.5) (with the exception of carrying out light duties on family farms to obtain additional skills, see: SDG Target 8.6).</p> |
| <p>8.8. Protect labour rights and promote safe and secure working environments for all workers, including migrant workers, in particular women migrants, and those in precarious employment.</p> | <p>RTRS: 2.2.1, 2.2.2, 2.2.3, 2.3.1, 2.3.2, 2.3.3., 2.3.4, 2.3.5, 2.3.6, 2.3.7, 2.3.8, 2.4.1, 2.4.2, 2.4.3, 2.4.4, 2.5.3, 2.5.4, 2.5.5, 2.5.6, 5.4.3, 5.5.4</p> <p>With 17 associated indicators, the RTRS standard covers the SDG Target 8.8 in a highly comprehensive manner. First and foremost, all workers are to receive a reliable employment contract (2.2.1). Moreover, workers are to have access to union and labour law materials as well as to training and instructions on workplace health and safety, all in an accessible form (2.2.2, 2.2.3). There is freedom of association and the right to collective bargaining for all workers (2.4.1, 2.4.2, 2.4.3, 2.4.4). Health and safety risks are to be assessed and addressed appropriately by producers and their employees (2.3.1, 2.3.2, 2.3.4, 2.3.5, 2.3.6, 2.3.7, 2.3.8), including provision of protective equipment and clothing (2.3.4)</p> |

SDG 8: Case study

Title: Gente que Produz e Preserva

Organisation: Cat Sorriso, WWF, IDH - The Sustainable Trade Initiative, Solidaridad Network, Groupe Bel

Location: Sorriso, Mato Grosso, Brazil

Case: Clube Amigos da Terra (CAT), from Sorriso, Mato Grosso, Brazil, is responsible for promoting the project “Gente que Produz e Preserva” (in English, “People that Produce and Preserve”), that enables soy production practices that are environmentally appropriate, socially fair and economically feasible. The mission of the project is to foster soy production in the region according to local labour and environmental regulations so as to obtain RTRS certification, thus increasing management efficiency levels in the local farms.



More information

One of the RTRS Standard's key contributions to the SDGs is towards SDG Target 8.8 through the guidelines formulated under Principle 2 ("Responsible Labour Conditions"). All workers employed directly or indirectly by RTRS producers must be adequately informed and trained for their tasks and be aware of their rights and duties. This begins with a fair employment contract that is clearly understood by the worker. All workers, including temporary workers, contractors, subcontractors, and sharecroppers are to be hired via written agreement, including formulating the contract in a language the worker can understand, and providing alternative solutions for workers who are not literate (2.2.1). Employees also have unlimited access to information via trade associations and collective bargaining action (2.4.1, 2.4.2, 2.4.3, 2.4.4). Similarly, any documents that detail the conditions of employment must also be available in a language understood by the worker (2.2.2). Second, a safe and healthy workplace must be provided for all workers. In order to achieve that, both producers and their employees must have a thorough understanding of health and safety matters (2.3.1). All risks are properly identified and addressed (2.3.2), e.g., by assigning staff to particular risk exposure categories (2.3.3) provision of protective equipment, clothing, and medical aid (2.3.4, 2.3.7) and development of health and safety procedures (2.3.5, 2.3.6). A particular focus is placed on the sector specific risks associated with the use of agrochemical products (5.4.3, 5.5.4).



INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

SDG #9 was created to address the needs for building resilient infrastructure, promoting sustainable industrialization, and fostering innovation. The purpose of SDG Target 9.4 in particular is to upgrade all industries and infrastructures for sustainability. Specifically, the Target seeks to reduce the carbon intensity of industries, that is, the quantity of carbon dioxide emissions generated per unit of economic value added (measured as kilograms of CO2 emitted per dollar of GDP).

The RTRS Standard is aligned with Target 9.4 as it seeks to reduce the use of fossil fuel in soy producers' agricultural practices under Principle 4 ("Environmental Responsibility"). By recording, monitoring, and keeping stable the use of fossil fuels in their farms, RTRS certified producers are helping curb the increase in emissions levels from the infrastructure used in soy supply chains. Thus, they are making the entire industry more sustainable and contributing to climate change mitigation efforts globally. This provides a viable alternative for addressing the issue of carbon intensity of an industry without having to complete retrofits of production infrastructure, which can pose significant cost barriers to some soy producers.

SDG TARGETS AND RELATED RTRS INDICATORS

| SDG Targets | RTRS Indicators |
|--|--|
| <p>9.4 By 2030, upgrade infrastructure and retrofit industries to make them sustainable, with increased resource-use efficiency and greater adoption of clean and environmentally sound technologies and industrial processes, with all countries taking action in accordance with their respective capabilities.</p> | <p>RTRS: 4.3.1, 4.3.2</p> <p>RTRS certified producers are required to record their their total direct use of fossil fuels over time in all activities related to soy production (4.3.1), including monitoring of volume per hectare and per unit of product. In this way, RTRS producers can prevent increases in the carbon intensity of their business. If an increase in the use of fossil fuels is recorded, a justification needs to be provided, and if no justification is available, the producer must formulate an action plan to reduce use (4.3.2).</p> |

SDG 9: Case study

Title: RTRS sustainable soy corridor in MATOPI (states of Maranhão, Tocantins and Piauí) in Brazil

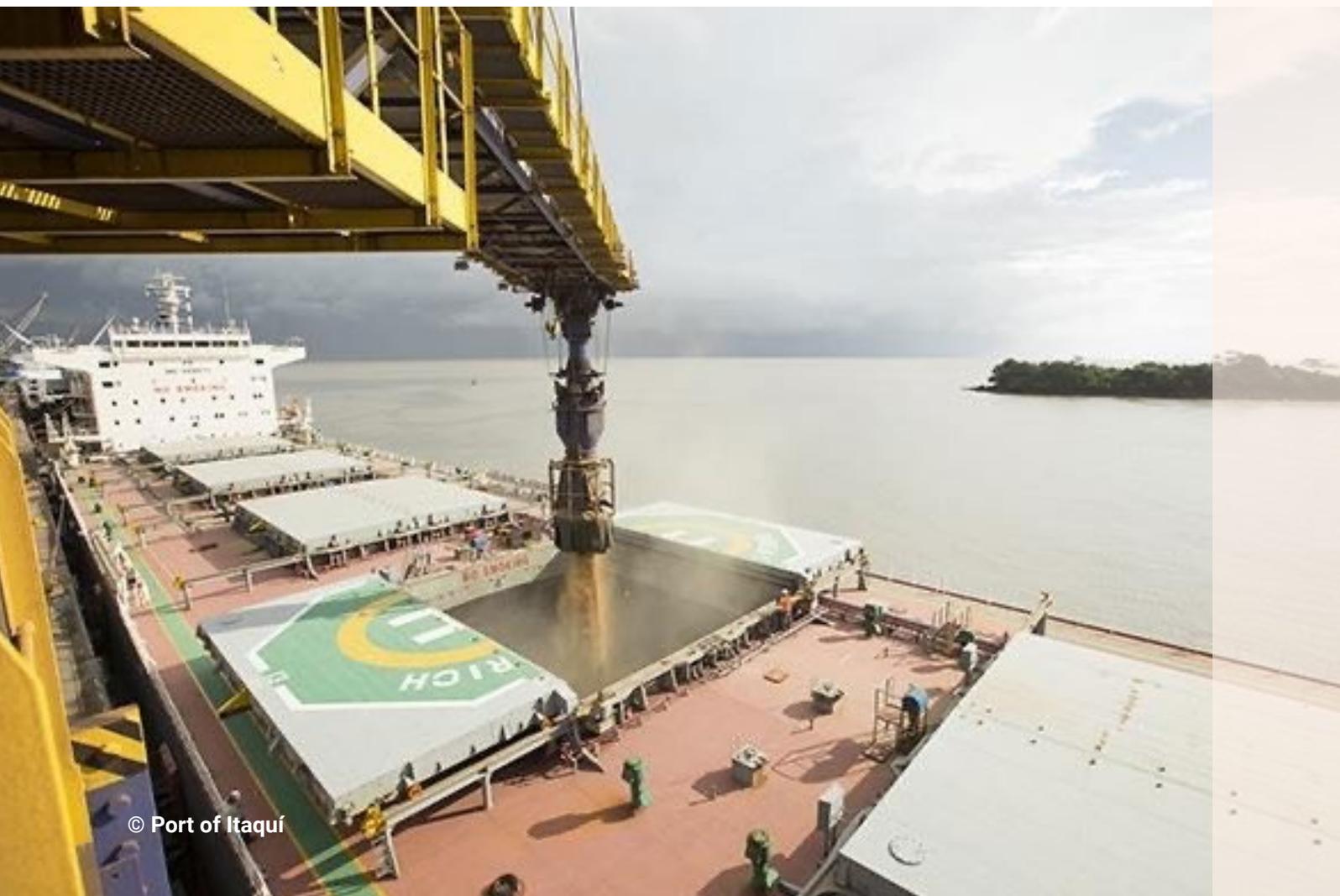
Organisation: Port of Itaqui, Cargill, RTRS Certified Producers in MATOPI (states of Maranhão, Tocantins and Piauí)

Location: MATOPI (states of Maranhão, Tocantins and Piauí)

Case: In September 2020, one of Port of Itaqui's terminals, in the state of Maranhão, Brazil, obtained the RTRS Chain of Custody certification to meet the demand for RTRS certified soy. Port of Itaqui connects the Brazilian grain market with the main international markets; it is considered the third largest port for soybean exports.

By certifying against RTRS Chain of Custody, the port terminal encourages truly sustainable food supply across the globe and contributes to strengthen and expand the volume of certified soy production in the region, guaranteeing food security.

MATOPI region (states of Maranhão, Tocantins and Piauí) represents and brings together a significant number of RTRS certified producers, hectares and tons of certified soy.





REDUCED INEQUALITIES

SDG #10 aims to reduce inequality among countries, groups, and individuals, aiming towards equal opportunity for everyone, inclusive decision-making, and income growth. Despite initiatives supporting equal rights, 70% of the global population still experiences inequality in different forms. The COVID-19 pandemic in particular has exposed the existing social inequalities, as it affected the most vulnerable communities more than others. This Goal calls for self-sufficiency of each individual as a key to the world's prosperity¹⁹.

Based on the current version of the RTRS Standard, the certification contributes to SDG #10 through RTRS certified producers seeking to ensure equal opportunities by introducing anti-discriminatory policies and actions at the company level. In particular, several issues have been addressed which commonly become grounds for discrimination in agricultural production: providing employees with adequate maternity leave, preventing discrimination of workers' representatives, and respecting indigenous peoples' rights.

SDG TARGETS AND RELATED RTRS INDICATORS

| SDG Targets | RTRS Indicators |
|---|--|
| <p>10.2 By 2030, empower and promote the social, economic and political inclusion of all, irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status.</p> | <p>RTRS: 2.1.7</p> <p>The Standard contributes to increasing economic empowerment as it requires equal remuneration and access to training, benefits, employment opportunities, and promotion for all workers.</p> |

| SDG Targets | RTRS Indicators |
|---|--|
| <p>10.3 Ensure equal opportunity and reduce inequalities of outcome, including by eliminating discriminatory laws, policies and practices and promoting appropriate legislation, policies and action in this regard.</p> | <p>RTRS: 2.1.7, 2.1.8, 2.4.2, 2.5.7, 3.2.3</p> <p>The producers are required to have a policy in place, committing them to not engage in, support or tolerate any form of discrimination (2.1.7). Moreover, all workers on the farm are required to receive equal pay, access to training and benefits, as well as opportunities for promotion (2.1.8). Also, as part of the workers' right to freedom of association representatives of workers' organisations are not to be subject to any kind of harassment and are to have free access to their organisations' members in the workplace (2.4.2). Regarding maternity leave, salaried workers are also to be guaranteed entitlements and protection in line with national law and practice (2.5.7). Lastly, RTRS certified producers are required to respect the rights, customs, and culture of indigenous peoples as defined in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (2007) and ILO Convention 169 (1989) (3.2.3).</p> |
| <p>10.4 Adopt policies, especially fiscal, wage and social protection policies, and progressively achieve greater equality.</p> | <p>RTRS: 1.1.2, 2.2.3, 2.4.1, 2.4.3, 2.4.4, 2.5.1.</p> <p>The RTRS requires producers to comply with the applicable labour laws by establishing and executing policies on wages (2.5.1) and social protection, including providing workers with health and safety training (2.2.3) and safeguarding workers' rights to organisation and collective bargaining (2.4.1, 2.4.3, 2.4.4).</p> |

SDG 10: Case study

Title: The Kress Group case

Organisation: Kimex SRL

Location: Itapúa, Paraguay

Global scope: RTRS Standard for Responsible Soy Production Principles & Criteria

Case: Kress Group is located in Kressburgo, Itapúa, Paraguay. In line with the principle Responsible Community Relations of the RTRS Standard for Responsible Soy Production, Kress Group developed different social inclusion projects and initiatives intended and designed to include the collaborators and workers of the establishment itself and the community in which the establishment is located. Among their initiatives, Kress Group fosters a real estate initiative to facilitate access to housing for their more than 800 collaborators who live in the town. Moreover, Kress Group has been providing support to the Heinfried Wolfgang Kress school where 185 children and young people receive training on Mechatronics all through elementary to advanced level.





SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES

SSDG #11 aims to ensure affordable housing for everyone, provide sustainable transport, and strengthen inclusive and sustainable urbanisation by 2030. The focus on developing sustainability solutions for cities comes from the fact that urban settlements produce 70% of global carbon emission and account for more than 60% of global resource use²⁰. At the same time, access to housing continues to be a major area of inequality, with an alarmingly large proportion of the world's population continuing to live in slums, informal settlements, or otherwise inadequate conditions.

RTRS certification contributes to achieving SDG #11 as it obliges soy producers to reduce the adverse impact of their activity on air and water quality in populated areas, including due to pesticide use and residue. Moreover, any expansion of agricultural production under the RTRS is to remain mindful and protective of local sites of special significance and use to local communities and indigenous peoples. The Standard also requires soy producers to provide all of the employees who live on the farm with affordable housing and adequate living conditions.

SDG TARGETS AND RELATED RTRS INDICATORS

| SDG Targets | RTRS Indicators |
|--|--|
| <p>11.1 By 2030, ensure access for all to adequate, safe and affordable housing and basic services and upgrade slums.</p> | <p>RTRS: 2.5.9</p> <p>All employees living on the farm are to be provided with affordable and adequate housing and food, if not free of charge then priced at market conditions. The living quarters are to be safe to inhabit and equipped with basic sanitation (2.5.9). Additionally, the employees must be provided with access to toilets and handwashing facilities (2.5.9).</p> |

| SDG Targets | RTRS Indicators |
|--|--|
| <p>11.4 Strengthen efforts to protect and safeguard the world's cultural and natural heritage.</p> | <p>RTRS: 3.2.3, 3.2.4</p> <p>RTRS-certified producers are required to respect the customs of indigenous peoples as defined in the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (2007) and ILO Convention 169 (1989) (3.2.3). This includes farm managers collaborating with local communities and indigenous people to identify and extend protection over any sites that hold special significance for the communities, including satisfying their basic necessities (3.2.4).</p> |
| <p>11.6 By 2030, reduce the adverse per capita environmental impact of cities, including by paying special attention to air quality and municipal and other waste management.</p> | <p>RTRS: 4.2.5, 5.4.2, 5.9.3, 5.9.4, 5.9.5</p> <p>The Standard requires that producers enforce plans for managing residue and reducing use of potentially harmful phytosanitary products (4.2.5, 5.4.2). Moreover, restrictions are also provided on the application of pesticides and aerial pesticides in the proximity of populated areas (5.9.3, 5.9.4, 5.9.5).</p> |

SDG 11: Case Study

Title: The FAPCEN experience

Organisation: FAPCEN

Location: Maranhão, Piauí, Tocantins, Brazil

Case: As a Research Foundation, FAPCEN's mission is to ensure the sustainable development of the northern export corridor region (covering the states of Maranhão, Piauí and Tocantins). It is a non-profit foundation for rural entrepreneurs in the city of Balsas, State of Maranhão, Brazil. Its work consists of transferring and adapting new, sustainable and innovative knowledge and technologies by hosting the biggest agribusiness event in Maranhão, targeted at students, farmer associations, women's associations, communities, producers of all sizes and government authorities, focused on RTRS principles and criteria as the primary tool to minimize agricultural risks in a well-consolidated region seen as Brazil's agricultural frontier. Currently, approximately 25% of soy planted area in Maranhão is RTRS-certified.





RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION

SDG #12 aims to ensure more sustainable consumption and production patterns globally, including by encouraging businesses to improve their resource and energy efficiency in order to decrease their material footprint.²¹ At present approximately a third of the food produced worldwide is not consumed due to poor transportation and harvesting practices. Also, agriculture remains one of the biggest consumers of water globally. This calls for improvement of resource and energy practices in agricultural supply chains.

The RTRS Standard is aligned with SDG #12 as it requires businesses to introduce sound waste and chemical management strategies, as well as increase their reuse and recycling rates, restructuring their production activities in line with the principles of the circular economy. Moreover, the Standard also contributes to making sustainability practices and sustainability reporting more widespread among companies. As part of the RTRS certification procedure producers conduct social and environmental assessments, and later introduce actions that help reduce the main negative impacts of their businesses, as identified by the assessments.

SDG TARGETS AND RELATED RTRS INDICATORS

| SDG Targets | RTRS Indicators |
|---|--|
| <p>12.4 By 2020, achieve the environmentally sound management of chemicals and all wastes throughout their life cycle, in accordance with agreed international frameworks, and significantly reduce their release to air, water and soil in order to minimise their adverse impacts on human health and the environment.</p> | <p>RTRS: 4.2.1, 4.2.2, 4.2.3, 4.2.4, 4.2.5, 5.5.2, 5.5.3</p> <p>The RTRS Standard helps ensure the environmentally sound management of waste as the certified producers may not intentionally burn waste (4.2.1) and must ensure that all waste is adequately stored and disposed of (4.2.2). The producers must also have facilities to prevent spills of oils and other pollutants (4.2.3) and a residue management plan must be formulated for the entire property (4.2.5). Furthermore, RTRS also requires the certified producers to adequately transport and store agrochemicals (5.5.2, 5.5.3).</p> |

²¹ SDG 12 <https://sdg-tracker.org/sustainable-consumption-production>

| SDG Targets | RTRS Indicators |
|--|---|
| <p>12.5 By 2030, substantially reduce waste generation through prevention, reduction, recycling and reuse.</p> | <p>RTRS: 4.2.2, 4.2.3, 4.2.4, 4.2.5, 5.5.2</p> <p>Apart from the abovementioned practices on sound waste management, the RTRS Standard's key contribution to target 12.5 is that it requires producers to reuse and recycle whenever possible, adopting circular economy principles to a greater extent (4.2.4).</p> |
| <p>12.6 Encourage companies, especially large and transnational companies, to adopt sustainable practices and to integrate sustainability information into their reporting cycle.</p> | <p>RTRS: 4.1.1, 4.1.2, 4.1.3, 4.1.4, 4.1.5, 4.3.1</p> <p>The Standard helps further the integration of sustainability information into company reporting as it requires the producers to conduct an initial social and environmental assessment prior to the first RTRS certification audit as well as take up measures to minimise the impacts identified by the audit (4.1.1, 4.1.2, 4.1.3, 4.1.4, 4.15). Producers are also required to gather the data on their total direct fossil fuel use over time, including monitoring the volume per hectare and unit of product for all activities related to soy production (4.3.1).</p> |

SDG 12: Case study

Title: The Round Table on Responsible Soy Association (RTRS) and its impact on fostering responsible soy production

Organisation: RTRS and its community including over 190 members

Location: Global

Case: RTRS is a global multi-stakeholder platform founded in 2006 to promote the growth of production, trade, and use of responsible soy through cooperation with players in, and relevant to, the soy value chain, from production to consumption, in an open multi-stakeholder dialogue including producers, suppliers, manufacturers, retailers, financial institutions, civil society organisations and others. This is what guides our work and operations.

RTRS also sets the standards for responsible soy and chain of custody. Particularly, the RTRS Standard for Responsible Soy Production scheme ensures that RTRS soy not only meets the highest environmental criteria (including a guarantee of third party-verified zero deforestation and zero conversion) but also a wide-reaching set of social and labor requirements. It is based on five principles: Legal Compliance and Good Business Practices; responsible Labor Conditions; Responsible Community Relations; Environmental Responsibility and Good Agricultural Practices. In 2021, 4,639,071 of tons of soy and 1,332,065 hectares were RTRS certified. For further information about sustainable production go to: <https://responsiblesoy.org/marketplace?lang=en>

More information

One of the RTRS Standard's key contributions to SDG #12 is towards Target 12.4: Responsible management of chemicals and waste. The Standard formulates specific guidelines for soy producers for what constitutes appropriate transportation and storage of agrochemicals and the containers in which agrochemicals are kept (5.5.2, 5.5.3). For instance, the guidance for indicator 5.5.2 specifies that the washing of the containers used for the storage of agrochemicals must be carried out using high pressure techniques or the so-called triple rinsing principles (including reusing the rinse water in the tank mix, thus still in line with the overarching aim of better natural resource management). Moreover, the RTRS Standard also makes a significant contribution to Target 12.6: Encourage companies to adopt sustainable practices and sustainability reporting. As part of the RTRS certification process, producers are required to carry out an assessment of on and off site social and environmental impacts (4.1.1). Importantly, the producers are then also required to introduce appropriate measures to minimise and mitigate any negative impacts identified by the assessment, in an order of priority in line with the "avoid, minimise, restore" principle (4.1.4). The implementation of the mitigation measures must be documented and monitored, and a summary of the assessment is to be provided upon request, helping to improve company reporting transparency (4.1.4).





CLIMATE ACTION

SDG #13 focuses on one of the important efforts that is currently being implemented by the global business community: combating climate change and its impacts. SDG Target 13.2 emphasises the importance of establishing and operationalizing policies and plans at all organisational levels that have integrated climate change mitigation and adaptation measures. Relating it back to the soy industry, if soy supply chains are to become both cleaner and more resilient, strategies must be introduced at the company level to adapt to the adverse impacts of climate change, foster climate resilience, and lower the development of greenhouse gas emissions²².

The RTRS Standard contributes to furthering the progress on SDG 13 through instructing producers to make efforts to reduce emissions and increase sequestration of Greenhouse Gases (GHGs) on the farm, including using fertilisers in accordance with professional guidelines and limiting natural land conversion as part of expansion of soy cultivation.

SDG 13: Case study

Title: ZERO means ZERO

Organisation: RTRS

Location: Global

Case: RTRS offers a soy certification standard with zero deforestation and zero conversion explicitly stated in its criteria. This means that no conversion of any natural land, steep slopes and areas designated by law to serve the purpose of native conservation and/or cultural and social protection is allowed. To guarantee zero deforestation and zero conversion in soy production, producers must provide objective evidence during audits - conducted by accredited and independent third parties (certification bodies) - showing compliance with the requirements of the production standard; this includes aerial pictures, maps and other satellite imagery to prove that no deforestation or conversion has taken place. here are certified producers located in Argentina, Brazil, India, Paraguay, and Uruguay.

²² SDG 13 <https://sdg-tracker.org/climate-change>

SDG TARGETS AND RELATED RTRS INDICATORS

| SDG Targets | RTRS Indicators |
|---|---|
| <p>13.2 Integrate climate change measures into national policies, strategies and planning.</p> | <p>RTRS: 4.3.1, 4.3.2, 4.3.3, 4.3.4, 4.4.1, 4.4.2, 5.5.5</p> <p>RTRS certified producers are required to record their total use of fossil fuels over time for all activities related to soy production (including field operations and on-farm transportation, as well as fossil fuel volume per hectare and unit of product (4.3.1). In case of an increase in the intensity of fossil fuel use, a justification for the increase or an action plan to reduce use must be provided (4.3.2).</p> <p>Similarly, producers are to monitor soil organic matter to quantify changes in soil carbon and take steps to improve or mitigate any negative trends (4.3.3).</p> <p>Further opportunities for increasing carbon sequestration are to be identified and implemented by soy producers, with a focus on restoration of native vegetation and forest plantations (4.3.4). The Standard further seeks to increase the sequestration of GHGs by limiting the conversion of natural land in order to expand soy cultivation (4.4.1, 4.4.2) and fostering environmentally friendly use of fertilisers (5.5.5).</p> |

**ZERO
MEANS
ZERO**

ZERO CONVERSION OF NATURAL HABITATS

Zero clearance of natural lands for soy production.
Food or Forests? With RTRS you can have both.

www.responsiblesoy.org

*zero deforestation and zero conversion according to RTRS Soy Production Standard. Image credit: @YaguerFilms.





LIFE ON LAND

The aim of SDG #15 is to commit businesses to sustainable use of Earth’s terrestrial ecosystems, including sustainably managing forests, combating desertification, and halting land degradation and biodiversity loss. Forests cover 30% of the Earth’s surface. They play a key role in combating climate change, protecting biodiversity, and providing food and shelter to indigenous peoples and animal species, including species threatened with extinction.²³ Alarmingly, the UN notes that progress to protect terrestrial biodiversity has stalled over the last 5 years. An estimated 13 million hectares of forests are lost annually, while the persistent degradation of drylands has led to the desertification of 3.6 billion hectares²⁴.

In line with the agricultural production sector’s increasing focus on fostering terrestrial biodiversity and preventing land degradation, RTRS Standard addresses SDG #15 in depth through multiple indicators under Principle 4 (Environmental Responsibility) and Principle 5 (Good Agricultural Practices).

SDG TARGETS AND RELATED RTRS INDICATORS

| SDG Targets | RTRS Indicators |
|--|--|
| <p>15.1 By 2020, ensure the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of terrestrial and inland freshwater ecosystems and their services, in particular forests, wetlands, mountains and drylands, in line with obligations under international agreements.</p> | <p>RTRS: 4.4.1, 4.4.2, 5.2.1, 5.2.2, 5.2.3</p> <p>Responsible expansion of soy cultivation in line with the RTRS Standard must involve the minimal amount of land conversion/clearing possible, including a total prohibition of conversion of any natural land (4.4.1, 4.4.2) (Glossary). Moreover, the RTRS certified producers must conduct an identification and mapping of the status of natural vegetation along watercourses, and formulate a plan with a timetable for restoring any natural vegetation which might have been removed due to their agricultural practices (5.2.1, 5.2.2). Natural wetlands must not be drained as a result of soy production activities (5.2.3).</p> |

23 SDG 15 <https://sdgs.un.org/goals/goal15>

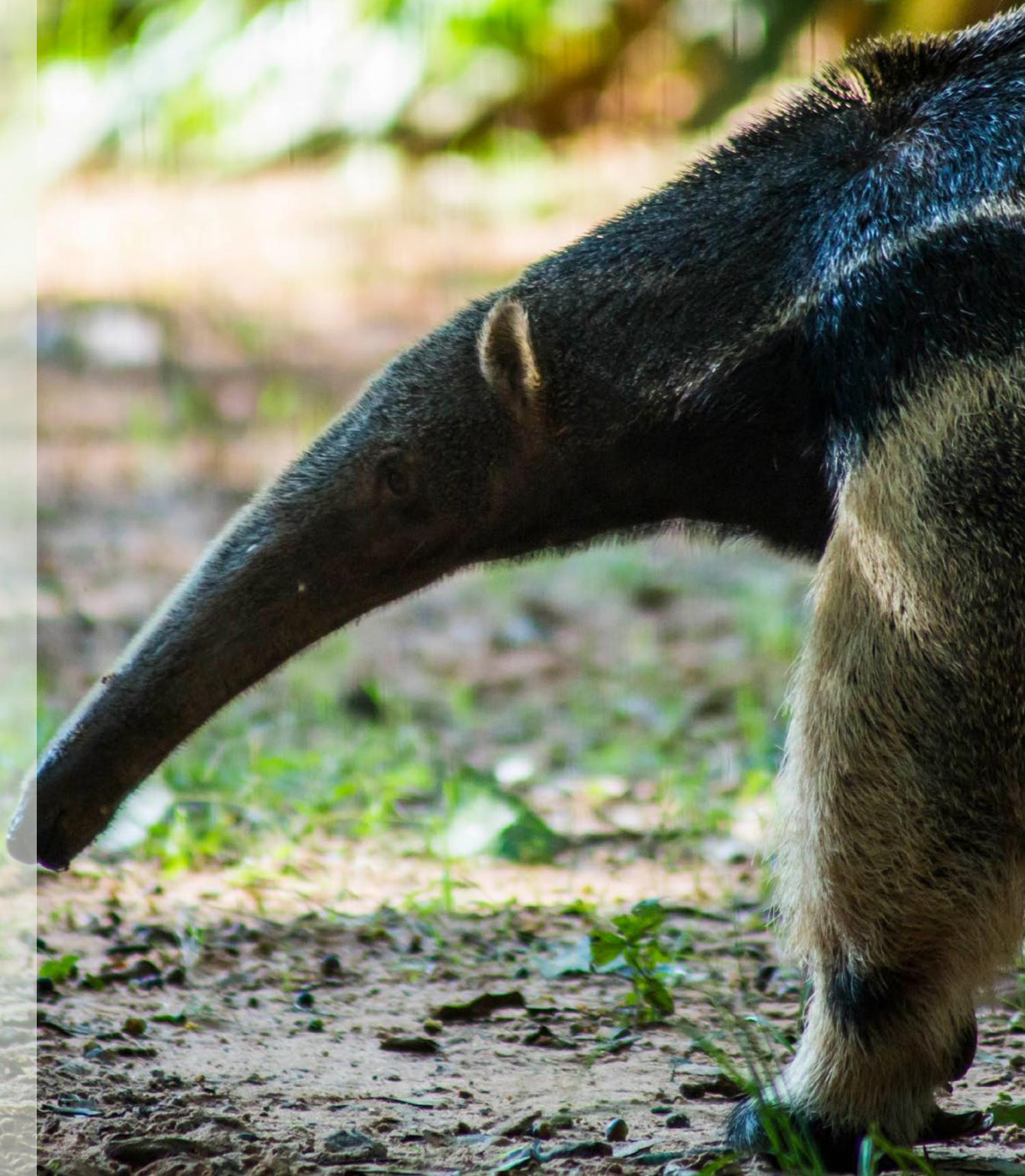
24 SDG 15 <https://sdg-tracker.org/biodiversity>

| SDG Targets | RTRS Indicators |
|---|--|
| <p>15.2 By 2020, promote the implementation of sustainable management of all types of forests, halt deforestation, restore degraded forests and substantially increase afforestation and reforestation globally.</p> | <p>RTRS: 4.5.1, 4.5.2, 5.2.2, 5.2.3, 5.3.2, 5.3.3, 5.3.4</p> <p>RTRS producers must prepare a map of where native vegetation is present on their farms and formulate a plan for how this vegetation will be preserved (4.5.1), (4.5.2). Moreover, producers are to maintain soil quality, prevent soil erosion, and implement crop rotation plans (5.3.2, 5.3.3, 5.3.4).</p> |
| <p>15.3 By 2030, combat desertification, restore degraded land and soil, including land affected by desertification, drought and floods, and strive to achieve a land degradation-neutral world.</p> | <p>RTRS: 4.3.3, 4.3.4, 4.4.1, 5.3.2, 5.3.3, 5.3.4, 5.4.1, 5.4.2, 5.4.3, 5.4.4, 5.5.1, 5.6.1, 5.6.2, 5.7.1, 5.7.2, 5.9.1, 5.9.2</p> <p>The Standard addresses the issue of land degradation as a consequence of various aspects of soy production particularly in depth, as alignment with the SDG target 15.3 was found for 17 RTRS indicators. When possible, RTRS certified producers are expected to introduce various activities to increase sequestration of GHG on the farm and beyond (4.3.3, 4.3.4). Monitoring and maintaining of soil quality and preventing soil erosion are also required (5.3.2, 5.3.3, 5.3.4). Crop Management Techniques and other measures must be introduced in order to reduce the negative environmental impacts of phytosanitary products, agrochemicals, and biological control agents (5.4.1, 5.4.2, 5.4.3, 5.4.4, 5.5.1, 5.6.1, 5.6.2, 5.7.1, 5.7.2, 5.9.1, 5.9.2).</p> |
| <p>15.4 By 2030, ensure the conservation of mountain ecosystems, including their biodiversity, in order to enhance their capacity to provide benefits that are essential for sustainable development.</p> | <p>RTRS: 4.5.4</p> |
| <p>15.5 Take urgent and significant action to reduce the degradation of natural habitats, halt the loss of biodiversity and, by 2020, protect and prevent the extinction of threatened species.</p> | <p>RTRS: 4.5.4</p> |

| SDG Targets | RTRS Indicators |
|--|--|
| <p>15.7 Take urgent action to end poaching and trafficking of protected species of flora and fauna and address both demand and supply of illegal wildlife products.</p> | <p>RTRS: 4.5.3, 4.5.4</p> <p>Another way in which RTRS certified producers are required to foster on-farm biodiversity is by protecting endemic, rare, threatened or endangered species permanently or temporarily present on the property (4.5.3). This includes initiating conservation activities to promote wildlife inside and outside of the farm (4.5.4).</p> |
| <p>15.8 By 2020, introduce measures to prevent the introduction and significantly reduce the impact of invasive alien species on land and water ecosystems and control or eradicate the priority species.</p> | <p>RTRS: 5.8.1, 5.8.2</p> <p>Producers are required to identify and monitor invasive introduced species and new pests (5.8.1). Major outbreaks of existing pests are to be communicated either through existing systems or to the proper authorities and relevant producer organizations or research organizations (5.8.2).</p> |

More information

The RTRS Standard addresses the issues of land degradation and biodiversity loss as a consequence of expanding soy production by providing clear territorial boundaries for where land conversion by RTRS producers is not allowed. Firstly, the RTRS has provided maps of areas which may not be cleared and converted after May 2009, which are made available in the Annex to the Standard (4.4.1 a) For use in geographies not covered by the RTRS maps, universal criteria are provided for identifying areas protected by the Standard (4.4.1 b). Moreover, RTRS also specifies that after 3 June 2016, no conversion is allowed in any natural land (4.4.2), which is defined in a separate Glossary accompanying the Standard as “all land with natural, native vegetation, including, but not limited to, native forests, riparian vegetation, natural wetlands, savannahs, prairies, and woodlands”. Moreover, the RTRS requires producers to safeguard on-farm biodiversity, hire a trained professional to conduct an identification of on-farm native vegetation and wildlife, formulate status indicators and baseline and measures for monitoring and protection (4.5.2).



SDG 15: Case study

Title: RTRS maps

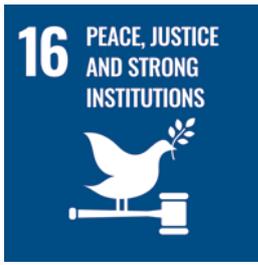
Organisation: RTRS, WWF, IDH - The Sustainable Trade Initiative, Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation, BACP - British Association for Counselling and Psychotherapy

Location: Brazil, Argentina, Paraguay

Case: RTRS maps are a zoning tool designed to guide responsible soy production in Brazil, Argentina and Paraguay, identifying areas where biodiversity is most relevant and should therefore not be converted. It also defines where expansion can take place over areas already consolidated. RTRS has developed its zoning tool to guide the expansion of soy farming and promote ecosystem conservation. This initiative was carried out jointly by producers, the industry and civil society organizations, both regional and international. Visit the maps: <https://responsiblesoy.org/mapas-rtrs?lang=en>

More information

RTRS certified producers are required to identify and, when possible, implement opportunities for increased carbon sequestration. If existing opportunities for carbon sequestration are not being implemented, the producers are required to provide a justification to the auditor (4.3.4). The Standard also provides multiple examples of the forms that carbon sequestration activities could take. Similarly, extensive guidelines are provided in the Standard for activities that could be undertaken by producers to implement and promote conservation activities inside and outside of the farm (4.5.4). Moreover, the Standard focuses extensively on the industry-specific issue of land, water, and biodiversity degradation as a result of improper use of agricultural chemical products, calling for responsible and documented handling, storage, and disposal by RTRS producers (5.4.1, 5.4.2, 5.4.3, 5.4.4, 5.5.1, 5.6.1, 5.6.2, 5.7.1, 5.7.2, 5.9.1, 5.9.2).



PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS

The **SDG #16** aims to ensure inclusive sustainable development, by providing equal access to justice for everyone and build effective and accountable institutions at all levels²⁵. Strong institutions such as police can prevent violence and deaths, reduce corruption accounting for US \$1.26 trillion each year in many developing countries. Peace and security have a higher risk of threat due to the pandemic COVID 19. Therefore, developing transparent, accountable and effective institutions is a key target²⁶.

Certification in line with the RTRS Standard contributes to SDG #16, as it requires open, well document- ed communication channels to be maintained between the producers and the workers, local communi- ties, indigenous peoples, and traditional land users who are affected by their business operations.

SDG TARGETS AND RELATED RTRS INDICATORS

| SDG Targets | RTRS Indicators |
|---|---|
| 16.1 Significantly reduce all forms of violence and related death rates everywhere. | RTRS: 2.1.9 The Standard requires that workers on RTRS certified farms are not subject to any kind of violence or intimidation, including corporal punishment, mental or physical oppression or coercion, verbal and physical abuse, and sexual harassment (2.1.9). |
| 16.2 End abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children. | RTRS: 2.1.1, 2.1.4 The RTRS prohibits the use of involuntary labour in any form at any stage of production (2.1.1), and specifically forbids that children under the age of 15 (or higher, if established by national law) carry out any productive work, with a special exception for certain activities on family farms (2.1.4). |

²⁵ SDG 16 <https://sdgs.un.org/goals/goal16>

²⁶ <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/peace-justice/>

| SDG Targets | RTRS Indicators |
|---|--|
| <p>16.3 Promote the rule of law at the national and international levels and ensure equal access to justice for all.</p> | <p>RTRS: 1.1.2, 1.2.1, 2.5.1</p> <p>RTRS certified producers are required to comply with all applicable laws (1.1.2). The use of land must also be legal and clearly documented (1.2.1). Gross wages paid out to workers must also fulfil national legislation and sectoral agreements (2.5.1).</p> |
| <p>16.7 Ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels.</p> | <p>RTRS: 2.1.10, 2.2.3, 2.3.1, 2.4.1, 2.4.3, 2.4.4, 3.1.1, 3.1.2, 3.2.1, 3.2.2, 3.3.1, 3.3.2, 3.4.1</p> <p>The RTRS Standard requires the participatory inclusion of workers in health and safety management (2.2.3, 2.3.1) and the workers' right to information, organisation, and collective representation (2.4.1, 2.4.3, 2.4.4). Workers are to be provided with a safe and effective channel to report abuses and guarantee their rights are upheld (2.1.10). Moreover, the RTRS contributes to fostering inclusive decision-making at the farms through 7 indicators addressing the need for producers to communicate transparently and effectively with workers, local communities and traditional land users (see: the More information box below).</p> |
| <p>16.b Promote and enforce non-discriminatory laws and policies for sustainable development.</p> | <p>RTRS: 2.1.7</p> <p>The Standard requires the producers to act against any form of discrimination on the farms.</p> |

SDG 16: Case study

Title: The case of Paraguay Agricultural Corporation S.A.

Organisation: PAYCO S.A.

Location: Caaguazú, Paraguay

Case: Two indigenous communities, Ka'atymi and Takuarusu, with around 115 families, from the Mby'a Guaraní ethnic group, live in the Ypetĩ Nature Reserve, across 2,015 hectares of land, which is part of RTRS-certified farm PAYCO in Paraguay, and where no agricultural activity is carried out. PAYCO supports these indigenous communities in different ways. Firstly, PAYCO hires members of the communities as permanent employees, serving as Reserve Resource Guards. Secondly, the company offers technical support in production programs that include items traded to generate an income or for self-consumption such as yerba mate and honey, produced by the indigenous community. Additionally, there is a forestry project called "upgrower project". It is a joint initiative where farm neighbors provide the land and part of the job, and the company provides resources and technology to grow eucalyptus.



More information

The Standard requires documented evidence of channels being available enabling dialogue between the producer and the community (3.1.1.). The channels must be made known to the local community via notification, and they should include an option for anonymous communication (3.1.2). Moreover, the RTRS also requires producers to communicate efficiently with traditional land users, including indigenous peoples, in order to prevent or resolve conflicting land uses by soy production. In the case of dispute of land rights, a comprehensive, participatory, and well documented community rights assessment must be carried out, and any conflicting land uses must be resolved and/or compensated for (3.2.1). Any relinquishing of land rights by traditional users must be based on their free, prior, informed and documented consent, and compensated appropriately (3.2.2). Producers are required to maintain a timely and effective mechanism for resolving complaints and grievances, which must be made readily available to local communities, workers, and traditional land users (3.3.1, 3.3.2). Lastly, any employment opportunities must be communicated locally by the RTRS producers (3.4.1).



How to use this document – Managing your sustainability transition

As a company who is actively committed to contributing to the sustainability transition, and furthering the 100% uptake of responsible soy, this SDG Materiality Report is aimed to support your work. In order to achieve this mission and vision of sustainable sourcing, as well as contributing to the 2030 agenda, you will need to develop internally a strategy that involves every level of your organisation in supporting this mission.

One approach would be to develop a stepwise approach set of key-performance indicators (KPIs) in order to map your progress in meeting your 100% sourcing commitment. An example of a useful approach is the Accountability Framework initiative, which clarifies to companies how to evaluate the benefits of certification and demonstrate a time-bound commitment for change. Such a strategy must move past the CSR/Marketing Department, and must include all key stakeholders from across the company. The Standard for Responsible Soy Production V. 4.0 aligns with the main definitions of the Accountability Framework initiative (AFi), particularly those of deforestation and conversion of natural lands, and those related to respecting the rights of indigenous peoples, local communities and workers. AFi recognizes RTRS – and more broadly certification – as an important mechanism for transforming commodity production, trade and use to mainstream ethical practices that protect forests and other natural ecosystems and fully respect human rights, among other important values.

Secondly, as a company you should consider becoming a member of the Round Table on Responsible Soy (RTRS). RTRS is a non-profit organisation promoting the growth of production, trade, and use of responsible soy, including through the development, implementation and verification of a global certification standard. It is also a global multi-stakeholder discussion forum from which to learn about new trends and focus points with respect to this important commodity.

Thirdly, your organisation should develop a clear communication strategy to inform both B2B and B2C customers about your support of responsible soy. To make this task easier, and to give transparency to the processes involved in the use of soy from production to consumption, RTRS developed the RTRS Soy Conversion Factor System and the RTRS Soy Footprint Calculator. This new tool helps users determine the amount of soy used as an input in the production of specific soy products (soy oil, soy meal, hull pellet, etc.), animal feed or food products (beef, chicken, milk or eggs) in a simple and practical way.

Soy as a commodity is one of the perhaps less recognised, but most controversial. Greater efforts must be focused on studying consumer response to different prompts and actions, documenting behaviour change and the impact of actions relating to your company/organisation, or the countries commitment to and shifting to RTRS certified soy. Recognizing that there may be issues of scale and resources, efforts should be made to measure consumer knowledge, awareness, and behaviour change.

Appendix

Table A: The SDGs and the matching RTRS principles

| SDGs | Matching RTRS Principles |
|--|--|
| #1 NO POVERTY | Principle 1, Principle 2, Principle 3 |
| #2 ZERO HUNGER | Principle 2, Principle 4, Principle 5 |
| #3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING | Principle 2, Principle 4, Principle 5 |
| #4 QUALITY EDUCATION | Principle 2, Principle 3, Principle 5 |
| #5 GENDER EQUALITY | Principle 2 |
| #6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION | Principle 2, Principle 4, Principle 5 |
| #8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH | Principle 2, Principle 3, Principle 5 |
| #9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE | Principle 4 |
| #10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES | Principle 1, Principle 2, Principle 3 |
| #11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES | Principle 2, Principle 3, Principle 4, Principle 5 |
| #12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION | Principle 4, Principle 5 |
| #13 CLIMATE ACTION | Principle 4, Principle 5 |
| #15 LIFE ON LAND | Principle 4, Principle 5 |
| #16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS | Principle 1, Principle 2, Principle 3 |

Table B: The RTRS principles and matching SDGs, targets, and indicators

| RTRS principles | Matching SDGs, targets and indicators* |
|--|---|
| Principle 1: Legal Compliance and Good Business Practices | SDG 1 1.4, (1.4.2) SDG 10 10.4 SDG 16 16.3 |
| Principle 2: Responsible Labour Conditions | SDG 1 (1.1.1), (1.2.1), (1.4.1) SDG 2 (2.1.2) SDG 3 3.7, 3.8, (3.9.3) SDG 4 (4.1.1) SDG 5 (5.1.1), (5.2.2), (5.5.2) SDG 6 (6.1.1), (6.2.1) SDG 8 8.5, (8.5.1), (8.6.1), (8.7.1), 8.8, (8.8.1), (8.8.2) SDG 10 (10.2.1), (10.3.1), 10.4 SDG 11 (11.1.1) SDG 16 (16.1.3), (16.2.1), (16.2.2), 16.3, 16.7 |
| Principle 3: Responsible Community Relations | SDG 1 1.2 SDG 8 8.3 (4.4.1) SDG 10 (10.3.1) SDG 11 11.4 SDG 16 (16.7.2) |
| Principle 4: Environmental Responsibility | SDG 2 2.4, (2.4.1), 2.a SDG 6 6.6 SDG 9 (9.4.1) SDG 11 11.6 SDG 12 (12.4.1), (12.4.2), (12.5.1), (12.6.1) SDG 13 (13.2.1) SDG 15 (15.1.1), (15.1.2), (15.2.1), (15.3.1), (15.4.2), (15.5.1), (15.7.1) |
| Principle 5: Good Agricultural Practices | SDG 2 2.3, (2.4.1), (2.5.1) SDG 4 4.7 SDG 6 (6.3.1), (6.3.2), (6.4.1), (6.5.1), (6.6.1) SDG 8 8.8 SDG 11 11.6 SDG 12 (12.4.1), (12.4.2), 12.5 SDG 13 (13.2.1) SDG 15 (15.1.2), (15.2.1), (15.3.1), 15.8 |

*Goals are written in bold, targets are in regular font, indicators are in ()

