

Recommendations for key players in the soy production chain



Producing countries:

It is necessary for governments from producing countries to create and enforce land planning laws to restrict the expansion of soybean cultivation, limiting entrance into areas of high value for biodiversity conservation, such as wetlands macro-systems, forests and native grasslands.

Promote measures to prohibit expansion of soybean cultivation into the margins of rivers, streams, lakes and ponds and promote vegetation buffer zones around water bodies which prevent contamination by agrochemicals.

It is also necessary to build the capacity at different government organisations to implement the laws that already exist. In Argentina it is necessary to develop new laws or policies for land planning and sustainable management of wetlands.

Consumer countries:

Ensure that imported soy does not directly or indirectly impact wetlands, forests and other sensitive areas. Instead promote the trade of soy certified by RTRS, both to industry and consumers.

Ensure that the European Union Directive on Renewable Energy (EU-RED) does not support soy biodiesel that threatens natural ecosystems, by making sure recognised certification schemes meet RTRS standards.

Producers:

Apply guidelines for "good agricultural practices" that incorporate the environmental component in its entire magnitude, including the conservation of wetlands, biodiversity and sustainable management of water resources. Agricultural practices should minimise impacts on the quality and quantity of water, whether surface or underground, because of chemical residues or fertilisers.

Avoid soy cultivation on the banks of rivers, streams, lakes and ponds to prevent contamination by agrochemical drift and runoff. Encourage the development of vegetation around water bodies, which helps the above and at the same time creates a haven for biodiversity.

Apply environmental monitoring, integrated pest management and responsible use of agrochemicals. An example is the guidance produced by the [Institute of Biological Resources INTA](#) for Argentina.