

Title:	Sustainable Soy Policy
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Scope

Scope includes:

- Soy used as animal feed in the production of meat, poultry, farmed fish, eggs, and dairy used as an ingredient in our products
- Soy used as a direct ingredient in our meals

Scope excludes:

- Soy used for animal by-products e.g. gelatine
- Soy used for meat or fish-based stocks

Background to Soy use and the link to deforestation

Soy (or soya), is a valuable and versatile ingredient which can be found in a range of products. However, the main use of soya is in animal feed. As a high protein bean, it's a key ingredient in some animal diets including pigs, poultry, cattle and farmed fish.

Most soy is grown in South America, where deforestation and the conversion of natural habitats - along with the associated impacts on biodiversity and climate change - is a particular risk. Deforestation and conversion are related terms that refer to the transformation of forested land into non-forest land for various purposes, deforestation being a type of conversion.

Deforestation is the process of removing or clearing forests or wooded areas, typically by human activities such as logging, agriculture, or urbanization. It involves the permanent removal of trees and the destruction of forest ecosystems. Deforestation has significant environmental impacts, including habitat loss, reduced biodiversity, climate change (due to the release of stored carbon dioxide), and soil erosion.

Conversion, in the context of land use, refers to the change in the purpose or function of a specific area of land. It often involves the transformation of forested land into other land uses, such as agriculture, pasture, plantations, infrastructure development, or urban areas. This conversion process may include clearing forests, removing vegetation, and altering the landscape to accommodate the new land use.

Deforestation and land conversion are closely linked since deforestation is often a prerequisite for land conversion to occur. The clearing of forests or other native vegetation is typically the initial step in converting the land to a different use. These processes have gained significant attention due to their negative impacts on ecosystems, biodiversity, and the climate, and efforts are being made worldwide to promote sustainable land use practices and reduce deforestation and conversion rates.

Whilst we're over-consuming high-impact food, the planet's resources remain finite and the impacts are felt on land, water and our oceans.

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The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) are the blueprint to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all. They address the global challenges we face, including poverty, inequality, climate change, environmental degradation, peace and justice.

SDG 15 ‘Life on Land’ aims to protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss.

Our food system relies on nature but a diet high in meat & dairy is resource intensive. Farming animals for meat and dairy requires space and huge inputs of water and feed. Today, one of the biggest causes of forest loss is the expansion of agricultural land for animal feed production, such as soy. There is a growing need to diversify the range of protein sources for people, reducing the overall amount of meat consumed. This could help promote healthier diets, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, help restore the natural environment, make it easier to feed a growing world population and provide greater scope for the very best animal welfare.

Our Position

Oscar Mayer are committed to engaging with our suppliers to make progress towards embedding sustainability, including responsible sourcing, throughout our entire supply chain.

We acknowledge that there is an inherent risk of deforestation associated with the animal feed of the high volume of meat and dairy products we purchase.

At Oscar Mayer we’re committed to assisting the global effort to halt deforestation and land conversion, and reverse forest and land degradation.

We support our Retailer partners in their commitments and support the idea of a UK policy on food that will drive the transformational changes needed to ensure our food systems deliver affordable, healthy, sustainable food. We support effective due diligence across supply chains to make sure all food sold in the UK is deforestation-free.

We are committed to ensuring that no soy which we purchase is grown on land which has been subject to legal or illegal deforestation and / or conversion since December 2020.

We are leading the way on developing meat alternative products and promoting plant-based proteins, reducing the reliance on products which may result in deforestation and / or conversion within the supply chain.

Our ultimate goal remains sourcing deforestation and conversion free soya in all our animal feed and our products, and so to protect biodiverse ecosystems such as the Amazon.

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Commitments 2020

- We have committed to work together with other UK industries to ensure all physical shipments of soy to the UK are deforestation and conversion free (cut-off date of December 2020 at the latest), fully implemented immediately where possible and no later than 2025
- We are committed to ensuring that no soy which we purchase is grown on land which has been subject to legal or illegal deforestation and / or conversion since December 2020.
- We pledge to ensure our supply chain is made aware of the impact of soya on deforestation globally and to encourage the move towards certified sources of soya within animal feed.
- We will share our commitments to all our meat and dairy suppliers, to assist the industry wide effort required to halt global deforestation.
- We will encourage all our meat, fish, dairy and egg suppliers to address deforestation in their supply chains and to create a sustainable soy/deforestation policy where one doesn't exist.
- We will continue our drive to develop innovative meat alternative products and plant-based proteins. Thereby reducing meat, fish, milk and egg consumption in favour of protein diversification from plant-based alternatives.
- Where possible, to use certified sources of soya within our new product development process for plant-based products.
- Commit to review this policy annually and to increase the ambition as required as more information becomes available as to the viable sustainable solutions.

Our Soy Footprint

Working with independent expert consultants, each year, we carry out a detailed exercise to understand our business' soy footprint. Our reporting scope for the soy used in animal feed included all meat and meat ingredients, all fish and fish ingredients, all eggs and all dairy for our products.

Year	Calculated Soy Footprint (tonnes)
2019	10,978
2020	9,036
2021	9,166
2022	8,868

Consistently across the three years stated, the table below reports the contributions to our soy footprint of each broad ingredient class:

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Ingredient Class	% of Soy Footprint
Beef	25.8%
Dairy	35.0%
Chicken	6.6%
Egg	3.7%
Lamb	5.9%
Pork	16.8%
Sausage Skins etc	1.1%
Seafood	5.1%

We are working hard to understand how much of this is already evidenced as free from deforestation and working on ways to improve oversight of the rest.

Performance Monitoring Processes:

The performance of suppliers is monitored on an ongoing basis by OM Group Technical Team as part of the annual Soy footprint calculations.

Credible Standards which assure of zero deforestation and conversion-free

A range of different soy production standards exist. These typically use third party audits to meet with producers, review production standards, environmental management, land rights and the history of site development. We recognise standards which align with our ambitions, such as the Roundtable on Responsible Soy (RTRS).

Responsible Soy Credits

In 2021 we began to purchase Roundtable of Responsible Soy (RTRS) credits for some of the soy ingredients we use in line with our retailer partners policies. These credits provide a financial incentive for farms to continue their production of responsible soy, rewarding them for their leading production practices, and helping ensure that forests and other native vegetation on their properties are not cleared for soya production.

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