

## UK Soy Manifesto Press Release

### UK food industry unites to ensure all soy is deforestation and conversion free in landmark agreement

- Nearly 40 leading UK food companies and soy supply companies announce landmark set of actions to work together towards ensuring all soy used in animal feed in the UK being deforestation free,
- Move comes on the first anniversary of the UK Soy Manifesto<sup>1</sup> and will help protect some of the world's most valuable forests and natural habitats.
- UK Soy Manifesto signatories include 38 brands, retailers, food service companies and livestock producers operating in the UK such as Tesco, Waitrose, Nando's, KFC UK and Ireland, Lidl GB and McDonald's UK and Ireland<sup>2</sup>

38 leading UK food producers, representing nearly 60% of the UK's soy consumption, and the Agricultural Industries Confederation (AIC), representing the four major importers of soy and the animal feed industry, have today set out a series of comprehensive actions to deliver on the aims of the UK Soy Manifesto. An ambitious commitment which aims to move all the UK's soy imports to being free from deforestation and conversion.

Acknowledging that mainstream transformation on this scale cannot be achieved by companies working within their individual supply chains alone, all businesses along the supply chain, from soy producers to retailers and brands, will take responsibility and act together. Today's announcement demonstrates the group's commitment to collective, cross supply chain action with agreement to:

- Produce a quarterly soy deforestation risk register for UK soy imports, tracking the UK's progress in the importation of deforestation and conversion free soy.
- Agreeing a joint transition plan, coordinated by a high-level cross supply chain governance group, with support of expert stakeholders to monitor and review the transition, ensuring the risk and responsibilities are shared.

A key element of the transition plan will be to ensure UK companies producing and selling meat and dairy products (using soy in animal feed) have a practical mechanism to specify that they require deforestation and conversion free soy, with robust checks and controls to assure standards are met. That's why today's announcement critically includes

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<sup>1</sup> Please see the full list of signatories in the 'Notes to editors' at the end of this document.

<sup>2</sup> The UK Soy Manifesto is facilitated by [Efeca](#), the convenor of the UK Roundtable on Sourcing Sustainable Soya and collectively led by all its industry signatories. Other civil society organisations (including WWF and Global Canopy), consultancies and research/academia partners provide support to the Manifesto.

- a commitment from AIC to develop a new verified deforestation and conversion free (vDCF) standard for the UK which will be independently verified

Together, these actions will ensure that Signatory companies can turn their ambitions into practical actions, supporting a mass market move to deforestation and conversion free soy use in the UK that would have been difficult to achieve even a year ago.

This package of measures provides the building blocks for this transition, recognising the need to accelerate the pace of action to protect forests, balanced with the need to support the livelihoods of farmers in the UK and abroad and maintain strong resilient supplies of this critical raw material in challenging market conditions.

Given that almost a quarter (23%) of global human-caused greenhouse gas emissions come from agriculture, forestry, and other land uses, and most of these emissions are due to deforestation<sup>3</sup> this announcement is well timed as countries come together to meet in Sharm-El-Sheikh for COP27.

Many countries and companies made bold commitments last year at COP26, hosted by the UK in Glasgow. Together governments of producer and consumer countries committed to promote sustainable development and trade while protecting forests and other critical natural habitats, through the Glasgow Leaders' Declaration on Forests and Land Use and the Forest, Agriculture and Commodity Trade Dialogue (FACT) Joint Statement and Roadmap For Action. The development of the UK Soy Manifesto, alongside today's announcement are key, practical steps that will help to deliver on these ambitions, consistent with a 1.5-degree pathway.

*"The AIC Soy Supply Group commitment to providing quarterly data for a UK risk register is significant as the group is the sole source of data on what is shipped and sold to the UK as vDCF. The data helps all parties understand the progress that has been made and focusses attention and resource on areas where there is still work to be done. Whilst market challenges are real, our industry remains committed to delivering DCF soy and sustainable supply chains"*

**James McCulloch, Head of feed sector AIC**

As well as the commitments announced today, Signatory members are also calling for global markets to provide financial incentives and technical support<sup>4</sup> to boost sustainable production. UK supermarkets Tesco, Sainsbury's and Waitrose, for example, have invested US\$ 11 million in the Responsible Commodities Facility (RCF), a new system of financial incentives for farmers in Brazil who commit to deforestation- and conversion-free (DCF) soy cultivation. Governments in producer and consumer countries and regions also have an important role to play. Ensuring environmental legislation that protects

<sup>3</sup> IPCC (2019), Special Report on climate change, desertification, land degradation, sustainable land management, food security, and greenhouse gas fluxes in terrestrial ecosystems.

<sup>4</sup> This may include financial incentives (e.g., grants or low-interest loans) and/or technical assistance to support producers to protect native vegetation on their private property and only expand production on existing cleared land (such as degraded agricultural land).

ecosystems are enforced at source, and that downstream companies are obligated to undertake due diligence on their use of forest risk commodities will be key.

The UK Soy Manifesto aligns with and builds upon similar initiatives in other markets such as the French Soy Manifesto, to show increasing demand and action plans from industry on removing all deforestation and ecosystem destruction from soy supply chains.

Following this announcement, the national soy profile is expected to become publicly available in April 2023. Details of the joint transition plan will be made available on [the UK Soy Manifesto website](#).

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## Quotes from Signatories & Supporters

### **David Edwards, Director of Food Strategy at WWF**

"Around the world nature is in freefall, and unsustainable agriculture is driving its catastrophic decline. To protect precious natural habitats like the Cerrado in Brazil, we must urgently ensure soy imported to the UK is not driving the destruction of nature overseas.

"Today's announcement - the product of collective action across the supply chain, including retailers, traders and suppliers - has the potential to drive the long overdue actions the soy sector so urgently requires. But, to ensure it delivers for nature and climate, we urgently need to see an explicit roadmap for implementation to meet the 2025 ambition - including measurable milestones to track progress, and a clear focus on bringing the rest of the sector on board."

### **Ashwin Prasad, Chief Product Officer, Tesco**

"We're absolutely committed to ensuring we meet our target of sourcing soy from whole areas verified as deforestation-free by 2025, and the launch of the UK Soy Manifesto last year marked a significant milestone on that journey. We've made good progress this year with the introduction of the Responsible Commodities Facility, which provides direct support to soy farmers in Brazil, but we can't solve the issue alone. It's vital we bring together retailers, brands, food service companies, livestock producers and soy traders themselves to set out a clear pathway to achieving our goal of guaranteeing all soy imported into the UK is deforestation free by 2025."

### **KFC UK & Ireland**

"As a signatory of the UK Soy Manifesto KFC UK&I are committed to sourcing deforestation and conversion free soy within their supply chain for 2025 - this is an area which must be addressed. These actions between AIC, soy supply companies and the UK Soy Manifesto add much needed transparency within the supply chains and will aid the signatories of the Manifesto in their overarching aims, to protect our natural habitats."

### **Ruth McDonald, Group Corporate Services Director, Morrisons**

"Reaching industry ambitions of being deforestation free by 2025 can only be achieved by working together, from farm to fork and with the soy traders who hold the key to making change possible. We're pleased to see this milestone reached and will continue to work hard with the wider industry on making deforestation free soya for animal feed a possibility in the UK".

**Ruth Cranston, Director of Corporate Responsibility and Sustainability, Sainsbury's**

"Sainsbury's is committed to protecting and restoring nature, it's why during COP26 last year, we pledged to ensure that our own-brand product supply chains are Deforestation and Conversion Free by 2025. As founding members of the UK Soy Manifesto, we know that the magnitude of the challenge requires collaboration across industries and sectors to drive the transformation required at scale to meet our target. The actions outlined by the UK Soy manifesto on data disclosure and transition action plans are an integral next step to achieve deforestation free supply chains, complemented by efforts in providing financial incentives and further support for producer countries."

**Nigel Edwards, Sustainability Director, Hilton Foods**

At Hilton Foods we are committed to achieving a net zero deforestation impact in our supply chains across all of our products globally. We are proud to be a founding member of the UK Soy Manifesto allowing us to work collaboratively with other stakeholders who share these commitments. Our joint engagement and the leadership by the AIC Soy Supply Group, has delivered this clear pathway to enable all UK farmers to purchase verified DCF soy against a common industry agreed standard.

**Alan Hayes, Interim Head of Responsible Business, Samworth Brothers**

"This set of actions enables Samworth Brothers to turn our ambitious climate commitments on deforestation and conversion into practical actions. Supporting a collaborative programme, uniting the ambitions and reach of all the major supply chain actors, is the only effective way to make progress with climate commitments such as DCF."

**Will Schreiber, Representative of the Retail Soy Group**

"Last year the UK Soy Manifesto launched as a game changing commitment spanning the entire livestock sector supply chain, from producers to retailers. This year signatories have made great strides in driving forward the market towards the common goal of having 100% verified deforestation and conversion free soy throughout the market. We need more initiatives like this to drive real supply chain transformation by ensuring all companies are working towards the same goal throughout their operations."

**Juliane Caillouette-Noble, Managing Director of the Sustainable Restaurant Association**

"We eat 25 times as much chicken as we did in 1950 in the UK and for many it's the go-to choice when eating out. With soy as the staple diet for most of the birds, to see two of the UK's most popular chicken restaurants, KFC UK & Ireland and Nando's among the major businesses committing to a landmark set of actions is fantastic news for the rainforests and for conscious customers who want to enjoy their chicken with no bad aftertaste."

**Malcolm Copland, Commercial Director, Greggs**

"At Greggs, we're proud to be signatories of the UK Soy Manifesto and remain committed to working together to ensure that soy is deforestation and conversion free. We continue to work with our meat suppliers to increase their use of responsibly sourced soy in livestock feed and welcome the inclusion of this commitment within the UK Soy Manifesto."

**Andrew Clappen, M&S Food Director of Technology**

“At M&S, our priority is to eliminate deforestation from the production of our products and we’ve committed to 100% of our soy being conversion-free and sourced from verified deforestation-free regions by 2025. We will continue working closely with other signatories of the UK Soy Manifesto to play our part in supporting an industry wide transition to a more sustainable model of soy production.”

**The Compleat Food Group**

“With the rise of environmental ethics and consumers demanding transparency from major corporations, it is the food industry’s responsibility to promote and practice sustainable development and trade. The landmark agreement between the UK Soy Manifesto and the nation’s leading food organisations is a truly historic moment, showing the UK’s commitment towards achieving global net zero targets by 2050.

“The Compleat Food Group is proud to be amongst other leading brands proving their dedication to practicing business in a sustainable manner. As a socially responsible company we are actively working with our suppliers to support the sourcing of sustainable soya by ensuring all soya entering our supply chains is deforestation and conversion free as soon as possible, and by 2025 at the latest.”

**Ash Gilman, Director of Agricultural Strategy at Cranswick plc,**

“At the start of November 2021, we switched our entire poultry business onto a verified deforestation conversion free full mass balance soya source. Although this created additional costs per tonne, it enabled a significant 28% drop in CO<sub>2</sub>e, representing good value for money. Whilst our pig businesses already use RTRS regional mass balance physical soya, transitioning to the next level of certification is not easy given our scale and geographical locations. Cranswick works collaboratively throughout the supply chain and believes today’s commitments will encourage other businesses across the industry to step up and build on current activities being driven by the UK Roundtable on Sustainable Soya, The Soya Transparency Coalition and The Soya Manifesto.”

**Margaret Berry, Head of Sustainability, Kepak Group**

“The majority of our UK beef producers do not use any feed containing soy and we are collaborating with the other Manifesto signatories to work towards the sourcing of sustainable soy for all UK ruminant feeds”

**Dew Valley Foods**

“As a signatory of the UK soy manifesto Dew Valley Foods are committed to working with our suppliers to ensure our products are sourced from deforestation free soya. We will continue to support all members of the manifesto to further ensure targets are met when it comes to sustainable soy a sourcing”

## Notes to editors

To learn more about the UK Soy Manifesto, visit [www.uksoymanifesto.uk](http://www.uksoymanifesto.uk)

The [Agricultural Industries Confederation \(AIC\)](#) is the agrisupply industry's leading trade association. AIC has over 230 Members in the agrisupply trade and aims to promote the benefits of modern commercial agriculture in the UK and support collaboration throughout the food chain. AIC members represent 90% of the animal feed sector and grain and oilseed sectors. AIC has established the Soy Supply Group to take this work forward, comprising of representatives from the four main soy imports to the UK: ADM, Cargill, Cefetra and Viterra.

### To date the full list of signatories to the UK Manifesto includes:

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|---------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. 2 Sisters Food Group   | 21. Labeyrie Fine Foods (Lyons Seafood and Farne of Scotland) |
| 2. ABP UK                 | 22. Lidl GB                                                   |
| 3. Aldi GB                | 23. Marks and Spencer                                         |
| 4. Avara Foods            | 24. McDonald's UK & Ireland                                   |
| 5. Bakkavor               | 25. Wm Morrison Supermarkets Ltd                              |
| 6. Compleat Food Group    | 26. Moy Park                                                  |
| 7. Co-op                  | 27. Müller UK and Ireland                                     |
| 8. Cranswick Plc          | 28. Nando's UK & Ireland                                      |
| 9. Danish Crown           | 29. Princes                                                   |
| 10. Danone UK and Ireland | 30. Ocado                                                     |
| 11. Dew Valley Foods      | 31. Oscar Mayer                                               |
| 12. Dunbia                | 32. Pilgrim's UK                                              |
| 13. Foyle Food Group      | 33. Sainsburys                                                |
| 14. Greencore Group Plc   | 34. Samworth Brothers                                         |
| 15. Greggs                | 35. Seafresh Group                                            |
| 16. Gressingham Foods     | 36. Tesco Plc                                                 |
| 17. Hilton Foods Plc      | 37. Waitrose & Partners                                       |
| 18. Iceland Foods Ltd     | 38. Yorkshire Farmhouse Eggs                                  |
| 19. Kepak Group           |                                                               |
| 20. KFC UK & Ireland      |                                                               |

The Manifesto is supported by other leading sector and trade associations representing the broader livestock industry including:

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|---------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|
| 1. British and Irish Associations of Zoos & Aquariums (BIAZA) | 5. Chilled Food Association (CFA)      |
| 2. British Meat Processors Association (BMPA)                 | 6. Dairy UK                            |
| 3. British Egg Industry Council (BEIC)                        | 7. National Pig Association            |
| 4. British Retail Consortium (BRC)                            | 8. National Farmers Union              |
|                                                               | 9. Red Tractor                         |
|                                                               | 10. Sustainable Restaurant Association |

To learn more about existing UK industry action on sustainable soy visit:

[UK Roundtable on Sustainable Soya](#)

[Retail Soy Group](#)

[Consumer Goods Forum Forest Positive Coalition](#)