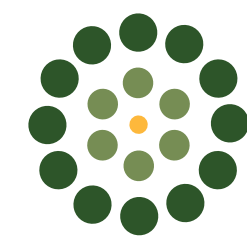


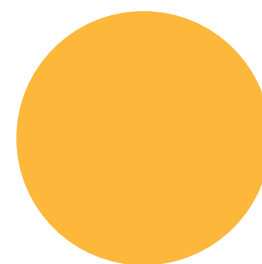


COMMUNICATION OF ENGAGEMENT (COE)

Round Table on Responsible Soy Association
(RTRS)



ROUND TABLE
ON RESPONSIBLE SOY



**United Nations Secretary-General
Mr. António Guterres**

March, 2022, Zurich, Switzerland

Dear Mr. Secretary-General

Our mission at the Round Table on Responsible Soy Association (RTRS) is 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.

Since joining the UN Global Compact in 2014, in accordance with and based on the above statements and all related actions and initiatives carried out by the Association, RTRS has been fully committed across the board to its sustainability initiatives and its 10 principles, grouped into 4 areas: Human Rights, Labor Practices, Environment and combating Corruption. We will continue to promote these principles in our operations and within the soy and corn value chains.

In this fourth Communication of Engagement (COE), we describe the actions taken by our organisation during 2019 - 2020 in line with the UN Global Compact and its Principles.

Sincerely yours,

Lieven Callewaert
RTRS President



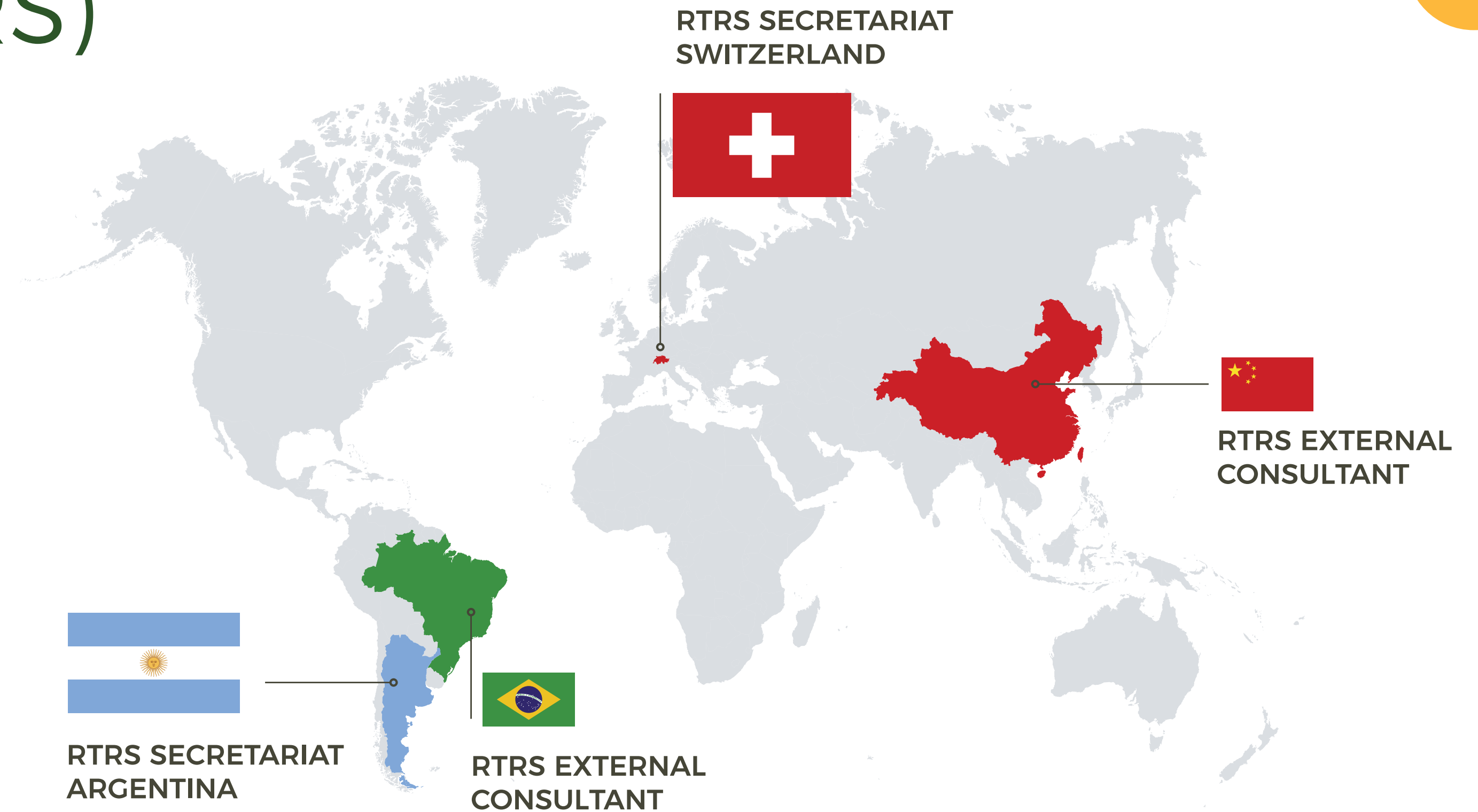
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ABOUT THE ROUND TABLE ON RESPONSIBLE SOY ASSOCIATION (RTRS)

Founded in 2006 in Zürich, Switzerland, the **Round Table on Responsible Soy Association (RTRS)** is a global multistakeholder not-for-profit organisation promoting the growth of production, trade, and use of responsible soy through cooperation with those in, and related to, the soy value chain, from production to consumption, in an open multistakeholder dialogue including producers, suppliers, manufacturers, retailers, financial institutions, civil society organisations and other relevant actors. Responsible soy is economically viable, socially beneficial, and environmentally appropriate.



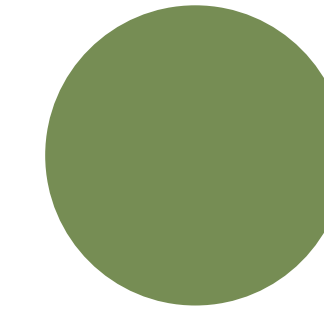
FACILITATING THE GLOBAL DIALOGUE ON SOY

RTRS GLOBAL COMMUNITY

23 new members in 2019 | 2020

The organisations that RTRS welcomed on board see the Association as a transparent and reliable platform on soy which, due to its synergies, enables them to develop their strategies and achieve their sustainability goals.

Click [here](#) and find out more about the RTRS members in the Association's website.



12

Members joined RTRS
in 2019 from 9 different
countries

163

RTRS members in 2019

11

Members joined RTRS
in 2020 from
15 different countries

161

RTRS members in 2020

FACILITATING THE GLOBAL DIALOGUE ON SOY

MEETING POINTS

These meetings and events are opportunities to liaise with different organisations in the soy value chain and engage in conversations to shape the global soy agenda towards the common goal of transforming the soy supply chain.



2019 RT14 Shaping Global Leadership

Utrecht, The Netherlands.
Hosted by Rabobank

+270
Participants

150
Organisations

20
Countries

44
Speakers

10
Sponsors

2020 Field Trip to Sorriso, Mato Grosso, Brazil

Hosted by CAT Sorriso
– Clube Amigos da Terra

30
Participants

9 Countries,
as well as different
regions in Brazil



2020 RTRS Webinar Series

3 online
meetings

+500
participants

94
Organisations

+20
Countries

15
Speakers

FACILITATING THE GLOBAL DIALOGUE ON SOY

4 TASK FORCES 2019 | 2020

The Task Force Brazil is a local multisectorial space intended to facilitate networking among industry stakeholders in Brazil and RTRS members and non-members, as well as to discuss topics and future actions to promote the growth of responsible soy production, trade and use in Brazil.



2019

Brazilian Task Forces:

2

Organisations
in each meeting:

+30

Participants
in each meeting:

+35



2020

Brazilian Task Forces:

2

Organisations
in each meeting:

+60

Participants
in each meeting:

+100

FACILITATING THE GLOBAL DIALOGUE ON SOY

As a global reference for the soybean sector, the Association was invited to participate in several initiatives.

MULTILATERAL ACTIONS



• MARCH / DECEMBER 2019:

RTRS signed the United Nations Declaration on the Integration of Gender Perspective in Technical Norms and Standards, which recognizes Goal 5 of the Sustainable Development Goals. As a signatory, RTRS commits to improve its approaches and develop new gender standards that may contribute to sustainable and inclusive growth, thus helping reduce inequalities.

• SEPTEMBER 2020:

As a signatory of the aforementioned declaration and in view of its importance, RTRS is part of the UNECE (United Nations Economic Commission for Europe) Working Party on Regulatory Cooperation and Standardization Policies. Within the framework of this endeavor, the Association participated in the Working Group on Knowledge Sharing & Training aimed at supporting the development of gender integration capacities in certification standards.

FACILITATING THE GLOBAL DIALOGUE ON SOY

EUROPEAN UNION COMMISSION AND DEPARTMENT FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOOD & RURAL AFFAIRS (DEFRA-UK)

RTRS is actively and proactively involved in the discussions and platforms of the European Union Commission and DEFRA-UK. Its certification schemes are tools that can potentially meet European sustainability targets and complement Due Diligence processes.

This has been the Association's journey European Union Commission

2019

- **FEBRUARY:** took part in the public consultation on the Communication on Stepping up EU Action to Protect and Restore the World's Forests.
- **OCTOBER:** met with representatives of the European Commission's Multilateral Environmental Cooperation – Directorate-General for Environment (DG ENV) and Directorate-General for Agriculture (DG AGRI).
- **DECEMBER:** participated in the European Union Agricultural Outlook Conference, entitled *Sustainability from Farm to Fork*, organized by DG AGRI in Brussels, Belgium.

2020

- **JULY:** became an official member of the new European Union Commission Platform for Multistakeholder Dialogue on Deforestation and Forest Degradation. The Platform was set up by the European Commission to provide a forum where stakeholders can exchange information and experiences, build alliances, push for and share commitments to significantly reduce deforestation, and to advise the Commission on legislative proposals and policy initiatives aimed at protecting and restoring the forests. RTRS was a participant in several virtual meetings, public consultations and working groups.

Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (DEFRA-UK)

During 2020, RTRS has participated in the Due Diligence in Latin America seminar and in the Due Diligence on Endangered Forest Commodities consultation process organized by DEFRA. Both initiatives are aimed at gathering information to define measures against global deforestation and to promoting the sustainable production of forest risk commodities.

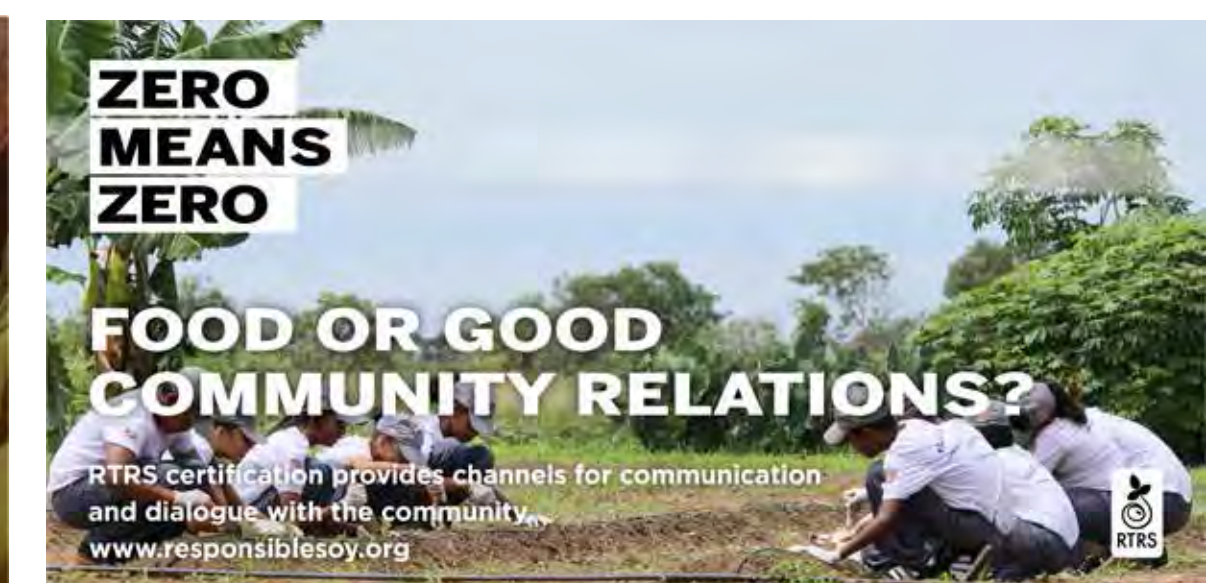
LIAISON & AWARENESS

ZERO MEANS ZERO

In October 2019, RTRS launched a campaign focused on informing audiences about valuable ways to drive impact on the ground: #ZeroMeansZero.

This campaign has shown that it is possible to meet the growing global demand for soy and, at the same time, preserve native vegetations and protect human rights by improving worker conditions. #ZeroMeansZero is based on the premise that it is possible to have forests, food and human well-being at the same time.

At the end of 2020, as part of RTRS' participation in the "Working Group on Biodiversity Communication" within the One Planet network Programme on Consumer Information (CI-SCP), led and published by the German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (BfN) – Division I 2.3 International Nature Conservation and the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU), RTRS' Zero Means Zero campaign was included in the Discussion paper entitled "Sustainable consumption for biodiversity and ecosystem services – Current state and future requirements in information, communication and international cooperation" as one of the good practice examples of communication.



LIAISON & AWARENESS

KEY CONVERSATIONS



• OCTOBER 2019:

RTRS participated as expert in the panel “Ways forward – Overcoming Implementation Challenges” at the Sustainable Consumption for Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services Worldwide Conference, held in Berlin by Germany’s Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety.

• JANUARY 2020:

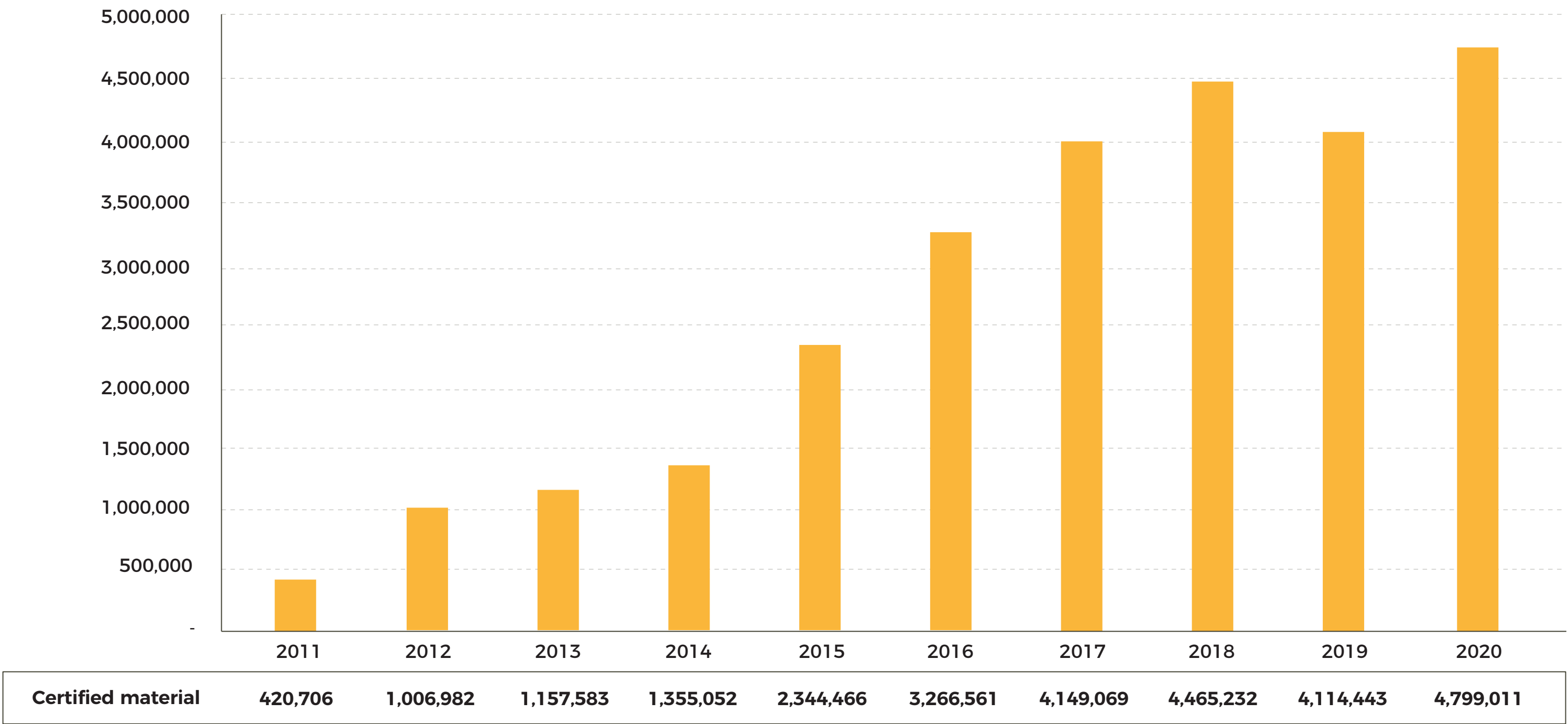
The Global Alliance for Sustainable Supply Chain (ASSC) and RTRS held a face-to-face seminar in Tokyo, Japan, to introduce the Association and support the organizations carrying out an adequacy and compliance process to meet the requirements of the Sustainable Sourcing Code for the Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games.

GLOBAL REACH 2019 | 2020 CERTIFICATION

RTRS CERTIFIED PRODUCTION 2019 | 2020

In 2020, with great effort and despite the COVID-19 pandemic, global RTRS certified production reached 4,799,011 tons, compared to 4,114,443 tons certified in 2019. This almost 16% increase shows that sustainable agricultural practices have been gaining ground and relevance and are becoming a strategic pillar in the global grain scenario.

Evolution of RTRS global certified production



GLOBAL REACH 2019 | 2020 - CERTIFICATION

RTRS SOY & PRODUCERS 2019 | 2020

Total tons per country 2019

Brazil: 3,350,343
Argentina: 545,884
Paraguay: 65,434
China: 61,348
Uruguay: 30,738
India: 0

Producers certified against the
RTRS Production Standard in 2019
264

Total tons per country 2020

Brazil: 3,677,721
Argentina: 653,886
India: 243,314
Paraguay: 131,110
China: 66,467
Uruguay: 26,513

Producers certified against the
RTRS Production Standard in 2020*
49.936



*The experience of small-scale RTRS certified producers in Asia

In total, 49,669 soy producers in India certified 120,439 hectares and 243,314 tons of soy under the RTRS Standard for Responsible Soy Production in 2020. In China, producers obtained RTRS certification of 66,467 tons of soy grown over 25,302 hectares.

In India, these are smallholder farms spanning 2 to 3 ha on average. China's certified producers own a little over 3,000 certified ha each.

GLOBAL REACH 2019 | 2020 CERTIFICATION

RTRS CHAIN OF CUSTODY CERTIFICATION

The RTRS Chain of Custody system was further consolidated in 2020. 84 new sites in 10 different countries certified against RTRS Chain of Custody Standard – an increase of over 120% compared to 2019.

>>2019

Storage plants: 4

Processing facilities: 4

Ports: 0

Transshipment facilities: 1

Trading offices: 1

By the end of 2019, there were 8 establishments certified to receive, process and trade RTRS certified physical soy.

>>2020

Storage plants: 68

Processing facilities: 21

Ports: 19

Transshipment facilities: 1

Trading offices: 6

By the end of 2020, there were 122 sites certified to receive, process and trade RTRS certified physical soy.

LEADING CASE

RTRS sustainable soy corridor in MATOPI, BRAZIL

In September 2020, one of Puerto Itaquí's terminals in the state of Maranhão (Brazil) obtained the RTRS Chain of Custody certification to meet the demand for RTRS certified soy. Puerto Itaquí connects the Brazilian grain market to key international markets; it is considered the third largest port for soybean exports.

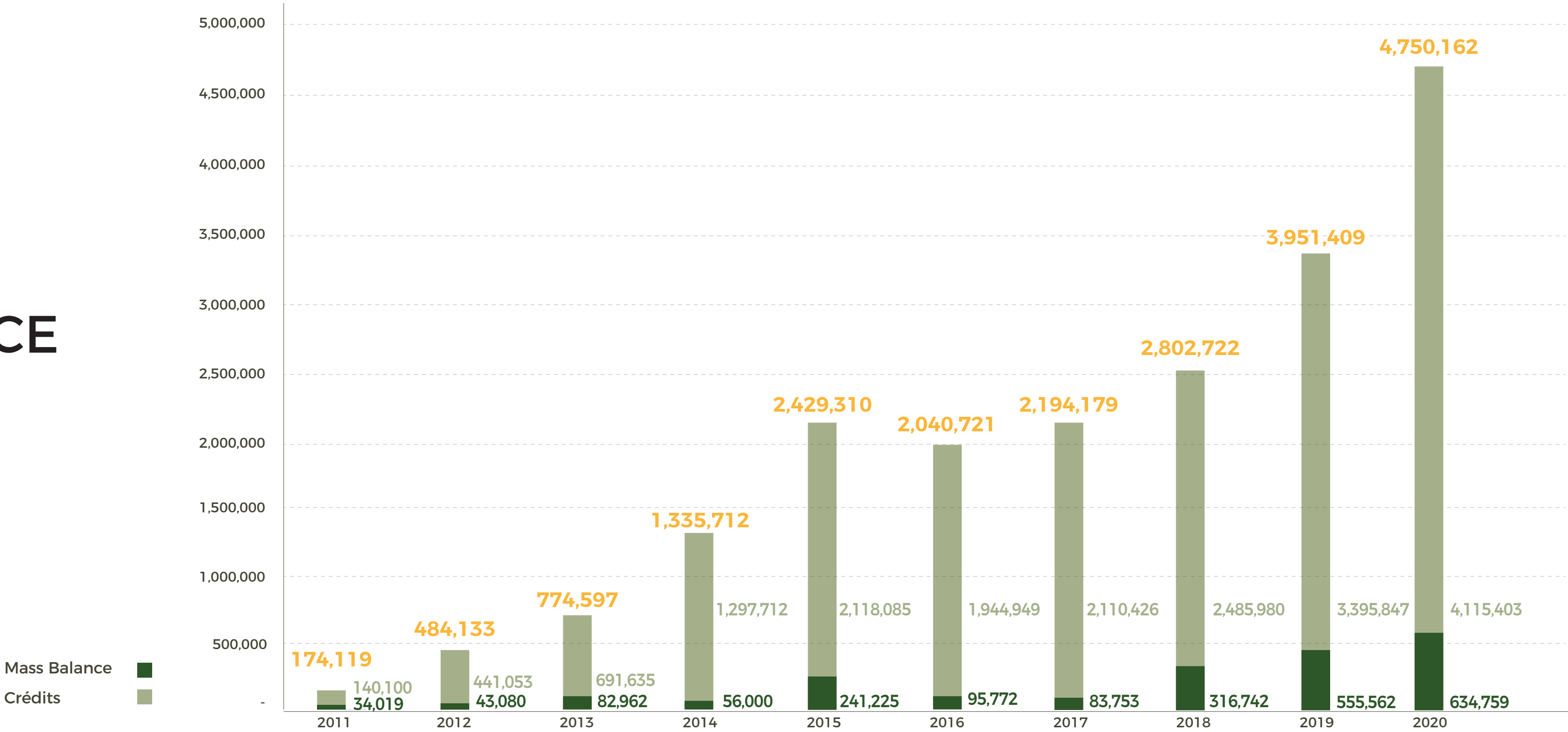


EVOLUTION OF RTRS CERTIFIED MATERIAL UPTAKE PER YEAR

2019
+41% uptake
increase vs. 2018

2020
+20% uptake
increase vs. 2019

RTRS CREDITS
SUPPORTING
RESPONSIBLE SOY
AND MASS BALANCE
2019 | 2020



EVOLUTION OF RTRS CERTIFIED MATERIAL UPTAKE PER YEAR

72 NEW COMPANIES ACQUIRED RTRS CERTIFIED MATERIAL 2019 | 2020

The consolidated increase in demand for RTRS certified material shows that organisations in the soy value chain are more engaged in promoting the production, processing, and trade of sustainable soy. At the same time, it recognizes the value of RTRS certification as a tool that helps the soy supply chain comply with its sustainability goals and policies.



33
new organisations
have uptaken RTRS
certified material in 2019

This accounts for 326k tons of RTRS
certified material.

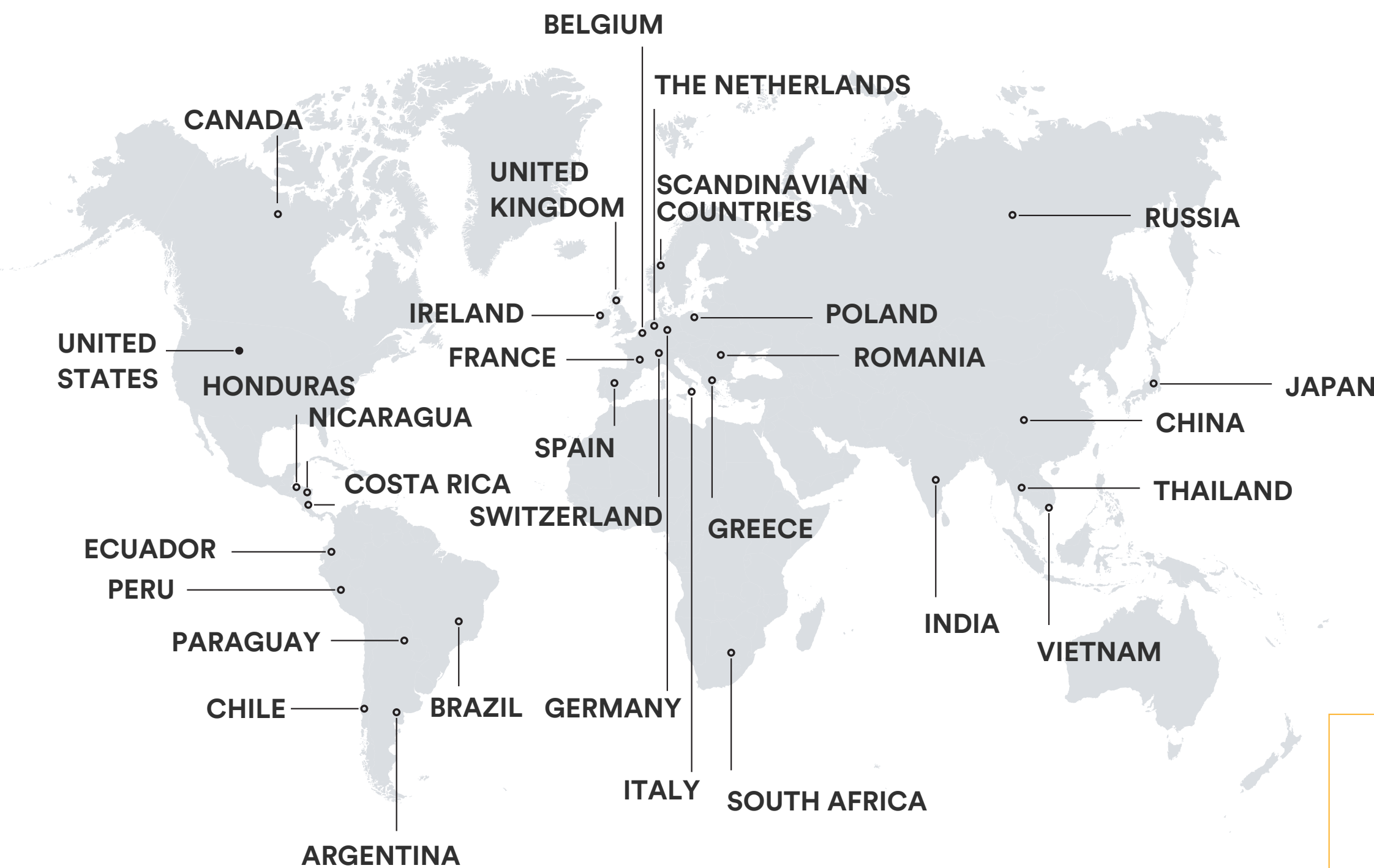
39
new organisations
have uptaken RTRS
certified material in 2020

This accounts for 500k tons of RTRS
certified material.

Click [here](#) to see the list of organisations that acquired RTRS certified material on RTRS' website.

GLOBAL REACH 2019 | 2020

COUNTRIES THAT HAVE UPTAKEN RTRS CERTIFIED MATERIAL



TOTAL SALES PER COUNTRY 2019

The Netherlands: 30,10%
United Kingdom: 16,19%
Scandinavian countries: 14,17%
Switzerland: 10,86%
Brazil: 8,42%
Belgium: 7,55%
Germany: 3,73%
France: 3,60%
Italy: 2,23%
Chile: 1,44%
Spain: 0,75%
Ireland: 0,56%
South Africa: 0,24%
Argentina 0,06%
USA 0,06%
China 0,03%
Vietnam 0,01%
Japan: 0%

Total: 100%

TOTAL SALES PER COUNTRY 2020

The Netherlands: 23,94%
Switzerland: 16%
Scandinavian countries: 13,04%
United Kingdom: 11,07%
Brazil: 7,96%
Germany: 7,94%
Belgium: 5,85%
France: 3,57%
Chile: 2,91%
Ecuador: 1,93%
Spain: 1,70%
Greece: 1,16%
Italy: 0,73%
Ireland: 0,52%
Peru: 0,42%
Honduras: 0,36%
Paraguay: 0,29%
South Africa: 0,22%
United States: 0,11%
Thailand: 0,11%
Argentina: 0,09%
Poland: 0,03%
Nicaragua: 0,02%
Canada: 0,01%
Costa Rica: 0,01%
Romania: 0,01%
China, India, Japan, Vietnam, Russia 0,00%

Total: 100%

In recent years, the demand for RTRS certified material has grown across different industries and countries. This is a result of the diversification of demand for biofuels and aquaculture, among others. This increase in demand has been observed in Latin America as well as in Scandinavia (more specifically Denmark) and the United Kingdom.

INNOVATION, TRANSPARENCY AND CREDIBILITY

REVIEW OF THE RTRS STANDARD FOR RESPONSIBLE SOY PRODUCTION (approved in 2021)

In mid-2020, the Association began a review of the RTRS Standard for Responsible Soy Production (by hosting virtual dynamic sessions) as part of its commitment to continuous improvement and compliance with the ISEAL Good Practices Code that fosters the development of efficient, transparent and multistakeholder standards. In June 2020, RTRS opened a public consultation on the **RTRS Standard for Responsible Soy Production** for 60 days. During that period, the Association received comments and remarks that were evaluated by a Working Group created for that purpose.

In line with the Association's multistakeholder approach, the working group included the participation of representatives from the three RTRS constituencies: producers, industry, trade and finance, and civil society organizations. Experts and certification bodies took part as observers to ensure that the sector was properly represented.



Finally, RTRS drafted the **RTRS Standard for Responsible Soy Production V4.0**, which includes the conclusions, adjustments, and recommendations on soy production discussed by the working group. This was approved by the RTRS members in 2021.

Note: since 2020, the **Accountability Framework initiative (AFi)** and RTRS have been jointly reviewing the RTRS Standard for Responsible Soy Production. The revision started with a comprehensive benchmarking of the Framework against the RTRS Standard for Responsible Soy Production and recommendations to align the issues detected. As a result, the revised Version 4 of the Standard includes key Framework expectations and definitions.

INNOVATION, TRANSPARENCY AND CREDIBILITY

PROGRESS ON THE RTRS STANDARD ON RESPONSIBLE CORN PRODUCTION (approved in 2021)

The development process began in 2019 and was approved in December 2021. The Association is committed to continuing its work to make it increasingly more robust.

Considering the environmental and agronomic benefits of crop rotation, a practice that responsible soy producers are required to implement under the RTRS Standard for Responsible Soy Production, RTRS began developing the **RTRS Standard for Responsible Corn Production** in 2019 and completed the process in 2020.

RTRS certified soy producers will be able to certify their corn production and add RTRS certified corn to the responsible supply chain.



RTRS BECOMES AN ISEAL COMMUNITY MEMBER

In late 2020, RTRS became the first soy certification system compliant with ISEAL's eligibility criteria and became an ISEAL Community Member.

As such, RTRS commits to the continuous improvement of its certification system by participating in the learning, collaboration and innovation activities facilitated and proposed by ISEAL.

Being an ISEAL Community Member has a significant impact on RTRS' scheme because the Association had to develop new procedures to comply with ISEAL's requirements, including the RTRS Theory of Change, the Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E) System, among other new developments.



INNOVATION, TRANSPARENCY AND CREDIBILITY

LAUNCH OF THE RTRS SOY CONVERSION FACTORS & FOOTPRINT CALCULATOR

In October 2020, RTRS introduced the new **Soy Footprint Calculator** that enables players in the soybean sector, organisations, and consumers in general to calculate how much soy is embedded in soy products, certain animal feeds or food products.

To estimate the footprint, RTRS developed the **Soy Conversion Factors System** and the Soy Footprint Calculator, a new tool that enables users to calculate, in a practical and credible way, how much soy is used as an input in the production of certain soy products (including meal, lecithin, etc.), animal feed and food products (for instance, beef, poultry, milk or eggs).

The **RTRS Soy Conversion Factors System** is a conversion method based on rigorous technical work and detailed research that included an understanding and analysis of each soy processing stage and its results. The research provided



the accurate information needed for a transparent calculation of the soy used and contained in the products under analysis in this stage of the development of the **RTRS Soy Footprint Calculator**.

Austral University's Agribusiness and Food Center (*Centro de Agronegocios y Alimentos, CEAg*) in Argentina and 3Keel (United Kingdom) guided the development of the **RTRS Conversion Factor System and the Soy Footprint Calculator**. Both institutions worked as expert advisers at different stages of the process. The project was carried out by these entities together with renowned experts, processing companies, traders and intermediary institutions that provided the technical and theoretical framework required to develop a rigorous and representative soy footprint calculation system.

INNOVATION, TRANSPARENCY AND CREDIBILITY

RECOGNITION OF RTRS CERTIFICATIONS FOR THE TOKYO OLYMPIC AND PARALYMPIC GAMES

By late 2019, and after a successful application process, the RTRS certification was officially recognized as meeting the sustainability requirements of the Sustainable Sourcing Code for the Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games. This recognition means RTRS certification was officially compliant with the sustainable sourcing code for agricultural products, as approved by the Organizing Committee of the Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games. The RTRS schemes were the first and only soy certification scheme in South America to meet these stringent standards.



"BEYOND 2020" RTRS STRATEGY

Launched in 2021, the Association developed the “Beyond 2020” RTRS Strategy to identify the competitive advantages needed to achieve RTRS strategic goals over the 2021-2026 period.

Lead by the Association Executive Board and with the support of the Secretariat, the Malik Institute served as a facilitator of this co-creation process. Also, in this work early stages, Proforest contributed with valuable input on the global soybean scenario, thus providing the framework and content for RTRS challenging objective. The “Beyond 2020” RTRS Strategy provides a roadmap for all activities that RTRS will undertake in the next six-year strategic period. (Example: the revision of the RTRS Soy Standard and the development of the RTRS Corn Standard).





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