

No soya from slash-and-burn areas in Brazil

The fenaco cooperative carries out part of the procurement of GMO-free soya bean meal (by-product of oilseed processing) from Brazil through the fenaco Grains, Oilseeds and Feedstuffs (GOF) business unit. In doing so, fenaco works exclusively with suppliers which meet the sustainability standards of the Soy Network Switzerland (www.soynetwork.ch). fenaco imported one of the first shiploads of certified sustainable soya bean meal into Switzerland as early as 2006. Under the overall control of WWF and COOP, fenaco was involved in drawing up the strict criteria in 2004.

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In the standard for responsibly-produced soya, various requirements are defined for the environmentally-friendly and socially acceptable cultivation of soya beans. One of these criteria requires that the soya beans used for oilseed processing should not originate from expanses of land that were brought under agricultural production after 2008. FOODCHAIN, an independent control authority, is responsible for on-site checks and inspections to ensure compliance with the ProTerra standard. Thanks to this sustainability certification, fenaco is able to offer a guarantee that its soya products do not come from areas of land which, now or in the future, are subject to slash-and-burn in Brazil.

At fenaco, the proportion of certified sustainable soya bean meal feed on the market under the brand "Proforest" was more than 99 per cent in 2018. For the current year, a similarly high proportion can be assumed.

More soya from Europe

In the efforts to reduce dependency on soya from abroad, fenaco has continually increased the proportion from European origin in the last few years. So, for instance, fenaco has been involved in the Donau Soja association for a long time and has been supporting cultivation start-ups with producer contracts. In 2017 the proportion of responsibly-produced soya from Europe was 33 per cent, in 2018 it was 36 per cent and in 2019 is expected to be 45 per cent.