

Technical Unit



Phases of the revision process of RTRS Standard for Responsible Soy Production V3.1

In accordance with ISEAL's recommendations, the RTRS Standard is reviewed at least once every five years, and not more frequently than once every three years.

Comments received after this first public consultation period, starting on August 1, 2020, will be analyzed by an open, multi-sectoral Working Group set up for this purpose, which will hold remote meetings at different points during the second half of the year.

For those interested in joining the Working Group, RTRS Secretariat will announce the opening of a registration period in the Association's website and in other digital media. All three RTRS constituencies, Producers; Industry, Trade and Finance and Civil Society, will be equitably represented in the Working Group, which will include a maximum of 15 participants. Representatives of the academic sector, experts, certification bodies and government representatives are also invited to participate in the discussions, although they do not have voting rights.

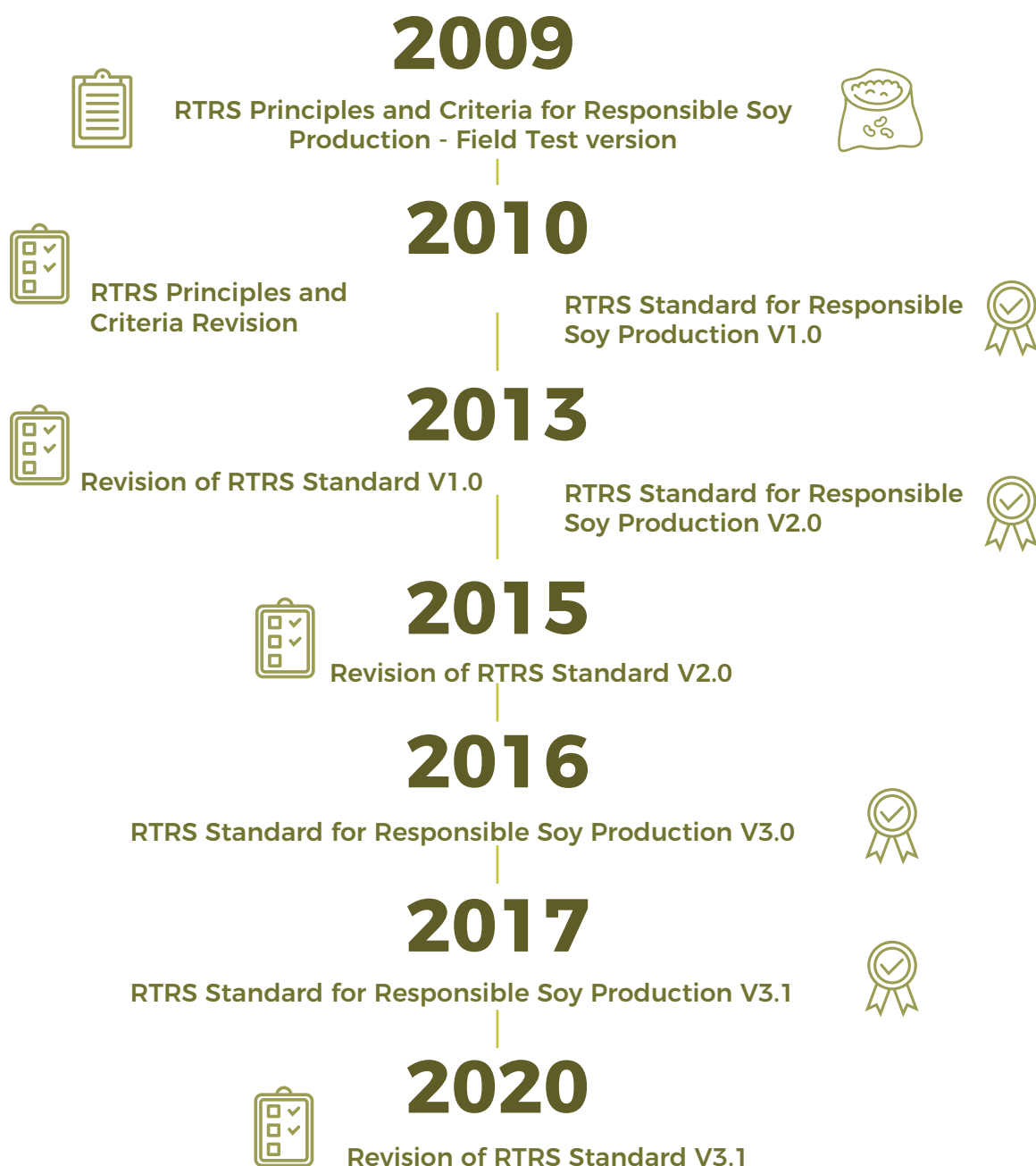
A member of RTRS Technical Team will coordinate the Working Group and a moderator will facilitate discussions during the meetings.



As a result of the virtual meetings the Working Group has been holding so far, a preliminary version of the Standard for Responsible Soy Production Version 4.0 will be drafted and presented in a second public consultation.

The Working Group will analyze comments and remarks received after the second public consultation period to draft the final document of the RTRS Standard Version 4.0. The Executive Committee will validate this document and will then submit the new V4.0 version of the Standard for Responsible Soy Production to the RTRS General Assembly for final approval.

History of RTRS Standard



Following a two-year development process, in May 2009 the Association released the RTRS Principles and Criteria for Responsible Soy Production - Field Test Version. This first document was used both by the National Technical Groups (NTGs) in five different countries for the national interpretation processes, and by producers and auditors in field tests.

In March 2010, the RTRS set up an International Technical Group to review the Principles and Criteria Field Test Version, and produce a set of auditable Principles and Criteria for use within a certification system. Part of the work of this group was to review the changes proposed by the NTGs as well as comments from public consultations on draft National Interpretations and RTRS Executive Committee guidelines on land clearing and feedback from field trials and diagnostic audits. Finally, this group including representatives of all three RTRS constituencies, concluded the review at a meeting held in São Paulo, Brazil, March 24-27, 2010, and presented the first preliminary version of RTRS standard.

The RTRS Standard for Responsible Soy Production V1.0 was approved by RTRS Executive Committee on May 12, 2010 and by RTRS General Assembly on June 10, 2010.

Three years later, the Working Group on Pesticides revised Criterion 5.6 on the use of agrochemicals and made changes, which resulted in the RTRS Standard for Responsible Soy Production V2.0 approved by RTRS General Assembly on May 29, 2013.

In July 2015, the Association created a Working Group to complete the revision of V2.0 of the Production Standard. Back then, RTRS received more than 260 comments after three periods of Public Consultation. The Working Group reviewed the comments over three face-to-face meetings and finally concluded the revision at a meeting in Buenos Aires, Argentina, on February 29 and March 1, 2016.

RTRS Standard for Responsible Soy Production V3.0 was approved by the 10th RTRS General Assembly held on June 2, 2016, in Brasilia, Brazil. Improvements included in this new version of the Standard represented a relevant milestone in the history of RTRS.

Updates of RTRS Standard for Responsible Soy Production V3.0:

·Clearer and more precise implementation: Implementation was improved with the inclusion of new terms and specifications. High Conservation Value (HCV) audits are no longer a requirement, but the concept remains embedded in the standard's indicators.

·Zero deforestation and zero conversion: forbids all conversion of natural soil, steep slopes and areas designated by law to serve the purpose of native conservation and/or cultural and social protection, as of June 3, 2016.

·Positive impact on labor and social conditions: improved principles and criteria impacting on labor and social conditions and considering the viability of certification for small producers.

A year later, on June 1, 2017, the 11th RTRS General Assembly, held in Lille, France, approved the Production Standard Version 3.1, which bans the use of Carbofuran in soy production and establishes the progressive reduction of Paraquat until complete phase-out by January 1, 2021.