

# Code of Conduct for Members of the Round Table on Responsible Soy Association

## Preamble

RTRS is an open and voluntary initiative by different stakeholders of the global soy chain to improve social, environmental, and economic sustainability in the soy sector.

RTRS is a market-based initiative open to all parties who support the production, procurement and use of Responsible Soy.

Given this commitment RTRS agreed to develop:

- A set of Principles and Criteria (P&C) for responsible production of soy and a verification mechanism for compliance with these principles and criteria;
- Mechanisms for promoting shared responsibility among actors in the soy value chain.

One mechanism for promoting shared responsibility along the soy value chain is this Code of Conduct for RTRS members.

It is considered fundamental to the integrity, credibility and continued progress of the RTRS that every member supports and works towards the financing, production, implementation of P&C, procurement and use of Responsible Soy.

All Members must act in good faith towards this objective and commit to adhering to this Code of Conduct.

This Code applies to all Members of the RTRS with respect to their activities in soybean business and its derivatives.

## 1. Promotion and Commitment

1.1 Member organizations will acknowledge their membership of the RTRS, its objectives, statutes and by-laws, the Principles and Criteria (P&C) and implementation process through informed and explicit endorsement.

1.2 Members will promote and communicate this commitment throughout their own organization and to their customers, suppliers, sub-contractors and wider value chains as appropriate.

1.3 Membership of the RTRS must be endorsed by a representative of the member organization. In the case of individual members, the person itself endorses her/his membership.

## **2. Transparency, reporting and claims**

2.1 Members will not make any misleading or unsubstantiated claims, statements and reports about the production, procurement or use of responsible soy.

2.2 Members are required to report annually on their efforts to support the RTRS and promote responsible soy<sup>1</sup>.

2.3 Members will commit to open and transparent engagement with interested parties, and actively seek resolution of conflict, with appropriate consideration for trade sensitive and/or confidential information.

## **3. Implementation and Support**

3.1 All members commit themselves to the principle of continuous improvement of the soy value chain.

3.2 Members will work towards the implementation of the P&C, and the effective functioning of chain of custody systems and will produce, purchase and promote increasing quantities of RTRS soy, its derivatives and products which contain them, over time.

3.3 RTRS Members share the responsibility to raise funds to support capacity building and other Pillar 2 activities<sup>2</sup>.

3.4 Members are responsible for ensuring that their commitment to the objectives of the RTRS is underpinned by adequate resources within their organization.

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<sup>1</sup> In order to facilitate the annual reporting of the members, at the RTRS web page templates are provided, including reporting guidance for the different stakeholder groups of RTRS (to be elaborated).

<sup>2</sup> Development of a stepwise program to support on-going improvement of farmers towards eventual certification.



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3.5 Relevant personnel within member organizations will be provided with appropriate information that will enable them to work towards the objectives of the RTRS in their work.

3.6 Members will share with other members experience in the design and implementation of activities to support responsible soy.

3.7 Members will work to ensure a well-functioning market for RTRS soy with clear price setting mechanisms so as to ensure adequate transparency for RTRS producers and members.

3.8 Members acknowledge that the application of responsible practices according to the RTRS P&C may have an impact on the costs of soy production and that suppliers of RTRS soy need to be adequately rewarded for their efforts to comply with RTRS requirements in comparison with similar soy that is not RTRS compliant.

3.9 Members will adhere strictly to the RTRS anti-trust guidelines<sup>3</sup>, and refrain from any behavior which can be construed as anti-competitive practice.

### 4. Breaches of this Code

4.1 In case of disputes related to the application of this code of conduct among members, they are encouraged to resolve grievances directly with other member organizations in a timely fashion or via the RTRS mediation committee.

4.2 Members, prior to taking public action in cases of unresolved allegations of breaches of this Code, will report such allegations to the Executive Board, which will deal with the allegation in accordance with the grievance procedures.

4.3 Members accept that the ultimate consequence for disregard of this Code, or the by-laws and statutes of the RTRS may be exclusion from the organization.

4.4 Executive Board Members who are found, after due inquiry, to have breached the Code, will be replaced.

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<sup>3</sup> RTRS will adjust the anti-trust guidance from RSPO for using it in the context of RTRS-