



ROUND TABLE ON RESPONSIBLE SOY ASSOCIATION (RTRS)

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This is a public document of the Round Table on Responsible Soy Association (RTRS), for any comments regarding the content of this document or the RTRS Standard please contact the:

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The next review is scheduled for May 2023 at the latest. Earlier reviews might be scheduled upon decision by the Executive Board or as required by ISEAL membership requirements.

The RTRS official languages are English, Spanish and Portuguese, however in case of any inconsistency between different versions of the same document, please refer to the English version as the official one.

1. Introduction

In 2012 the RTRS created a Working Group to review the indicator 5.6.2 of its RTRS Responsible Soy Production Standard V1.0, which stated that during the 3 years following its approval, the RTRS was going to review the use of the following 3 agrochemicals: Endosulfan (WHO Class II), Paraquat (WHO Class II), Carbofuran (WHO Class Ib). Endosulfan was included in the Stockholm Convention list of POPs in 2011.

As a result of that review, it was decided to ban the use of Carbofuran and Paraquat by June 2017. Meanwhile a phase out period was given to the producers. The possibility for the RTRS to extend this phase-out period beyond June 2017 was mentioned in indicator 5.6.2 , provided that sufficient evidence existed (as of June 2016) that no alternatives existed in the market (globally or locally), which could substitute Paraquat with less environmental and human risks and with similar costs.

During 2015 and 2016 a Working Group was created to develop the new version of the RTRS Production Standard. As part of the review an independent Paraquat Working Group was created in 2016 to deal with the evidence received by the RTRS Secretariat and deliver a report to the RTRS Executive Board for final decision.

In March 2017 and after receiving and discussing the Working Group report, the RTRS Executive Board proposed to create a module for non-Paraquat. The creation of a non-Paraquat Module is approved by the General Assembly (GA11) in June 1st, 2017, with the approval of indicator 5.6.3 “From January 2018 to December 2020, RTRS will have also a Non-Paraquat module in the platform during this phase out period”, of the RTRS Responsible Soy Production Standard v3.1.

2. Scope

This is a voluntary add-on module to the existing RTRS Standard for Responsible Soy Production v3.1.

As such, all Principles, Criteria and Indicators must be met and complied with as well as all requirements set in the RTRS Accreditation and Certification requirements for responsible soy production.

3. Requirements

3.1 Requirements for soy producers

3.1.1 Soy producers shall not use paraquat.

3.1.2 When adjacent to agricultural operations using paraquat, soy producers shall ensure that no contamination by paraquat (e.g. through soil/water leakage or when pesticides are sprayed above fields) occurs.

3.2 Compliance indicator

Paraquat use records and interviews with agrochemicals handlers confirm there is no use of Paraquat.

4.0 Use of RTRS Trading Platform for RTRS non-Paraquat credits¹

4.1 RTRS certified soy producers having demonstrated compliance with the above requirements are entitled to issue RTRS non-Paraquat credits via the RTRS Trading Platform² (one credit per ton of RTRS non-Paraquat soy).

4.2 The RTRS non-Paraquat credits have 5 years of validity from the date these are uploaded on the platform to be sold by the producers.

4.3 Operators handling soy, soy derivatives and/or soy products may purchase RTRS non-Paraquat credits via the RTRS Trading Platform. RTRS non-Paraquat credits may be used within two calendar years since the year of purchase.

4.4 On-product and off-product claims related to RTRS non-Paraquat credits shall comply with RTRS Use of the Logo & Claims Policy.

¹ The terms mentioned in this point can be reviewed and modified independently

² <https://platform.responsiblesoy.org>