RTRS welcomes 27 new members in 2021

In 2021, the Round Table on Responsible Soy Association (RTRS) continued growing and adding new members. Throughout the year, RTRS welcomed 27 organizations from the Industry, Trade and Finance, Producers and Civil Society constituencies. In the first half of the year, 21 new organizations joined RTRS and in the second half, six more organizations joined. All of them have made a commitment to contribute to making the soy value chain more responsible:

NEW MEMBERS JOINING IN THE SECOND HALF OF 2021

Industry, Trade and Finance (4)

Advanced Organic Materials S.A. (AOM) Advanced Organic Materials S.A. (AOM) is a leading producer of natural ingredients based in Argentina and Spain. Its antioxidant and nutritional products provide protection and strength to numerous products around the world in multiple industries such as food, nutrition, personal care, pet food and animal feed.

Rolando Hernandez, Quality Assurance Manager says: “We aim to make a more sustainable impact through soy by selecting our suppliers, using all available by-products and optimizing transportation distances of raw materials and finished products.”

Aves Reproductoras de Centroamerica S.A (Areca) is the commercial brand of animal feed produced by the Vitali Alimentos Group. Together with other companies of the group, it consolidates a poultry production cluster with commercial
brands in Guatemala and El Salvador with more than 50 years in the market. The animal feed division includes two plants, which together produce approximately 350,000 tons of feed per year. Animal Feed supplies both the group’s own plants and external customers in different sectors. They produce animal feed for livestock as well as pet food, being their specialty field the aquaculture industry (tilapia and shrimp), with a significant market share in the entire Central American region.

“We are committed to reducing our impact not only in the area where we operate but also where our products are used. We believe that being part of RTRS will help us find more options to reduce our impact and at the same time we will be able to contribute to the industry”, confirms Emmanuel Porta, Commercial Manager.

Corredor Logística e Infraestrutura S.A. (CLI) is part of the TEGRAM Consortium and one of the four operators of the Maranhão Grain Terminal. It is located at Puerto Itaqui in São Luís - Maranhão State, Brazil. CLI provides storage and shipping services for bulk vegetables (soybean, corn, soy bran, among others) produced in the MATOPIBA region (Maranhão, Tocantins, Piauí and Bahia states) and in northeastern Mato Grosso. CLI is the only “white flag” grain terminal in the region.

“Our mission is to support the development of responsible agribusiness in the northeast, north and center-west regions of Brazil, offering storage and grain elevation services, thus contributing to world food supply. We joined the Association because our desire is to ensure the integrity of our processes and compliance with standards and to seek traceability and transparency as to the origin of the grain that arrives at our terminal,” said Marianna Laranjeira, Head of Integrity, ESG and Legal Department at CLI.
Woolworths Group Limited operates around 1200 supermarkets in Australia and New Zealand that retail both vendor and own-brand food and non-food products.

“Our 2025 ‘Better Together’ strategy focuses on making positive change for our people, our planet and our products. One aspect of this strategy is achieving and maintaining a low risk of deforestation stemming from high-impact commodities such as soy, palm oil, and paper pulp and timber”, said Adam Farran, Sustainable Sourcing Specialist at Woolworths Group Limited.

Producers (1)

San Félix S.A. is a family-owned company, engaged in agricultural and livestock production as well as service activities. It owns two farms of about 1,545 and 630 hectares, respectively, in the province of Buenos Aires, Argentina.

Antonio Rafael de Nevaes, Director of San Felix S.A., points out: “As RTRS certified producers, our motivation in joining the Association is to actively participate in a global and multi-sectoral platform, support dissemination activities and facilitate trade of certified material.”

Observing Members (1)

LL Ambiental Ltda., is a specialized environmental consultant, engaged in natural resources quality monitoring. In addition to providing consulting services in Brazil, the company acts as manager of RTRS certification groups.
“It is important to promote the idea that sustainable soybean production generates multiple benefits for the farmer and the environment. Being part of RTRS group brings us closer and closer to sustainable practices,” explained Lírio Vivan Junior, Director of LL Ambiental.

NEW MEMBERS JOINING IN THE FIRST HALF OF 2021

Industry, Trade and Finance (11)

ALDI Einkauf SE & Co. oHG is a German company that owns discount supermarket chains selling high quality products at affordable prices, with presence in nine European countries. ALDI sells products that contain soy or where soy has been used in animal feeds in their supply chains. ALDI’s own trademarks, in particular, guarantee that the soybean used for animal feed or directly as an ingredient comes from responsible sources and does not contribute to deforestation. Long-term planning and responsible actions are part of ALDI Einkauf SE & Co. oHG traditional values, which continue to be the basis of its success.

Christian Haller, Global Manager of Corporate Responsibility and Quality Control, says: “At the very heart of our discount model are sustainable principles that enable us to act in an efficient and resource-saving manner: simplicity and a concentration on the essential. With a focus on responsibility along the entire supply chain.”

BRF S.A. is a global food company with 100% Brazilian DNA that commercializes animal and soy-based products. The company employs more than 90,000 people from 98 different nationalities
who work in points of sale, production facilities, distribution centers and offices located in over 130 countries.

Centrico Veevoeders B.V. is an organization that supplies raw materials to the animal feed industry. It represents 18 balanced food producers from The Netherlands. Founded in 1984 by four animal feed manufacturers, it expanded its business and now has a 20% market share in The Netherlands. Centrico believes that its RTRS membership will contribute to the transformation of its sustainability chains.

Fazenda Futuro S.A. is the first Brazilian foodtech that produces meat-free and plant-based meats. Its products imitate animal meat taste and texture while offering an identical experience. Besides, its products are gluten free. The company is present in England, The Netherlands, Sweden, The United Arab Emirates, Chile, Mexico and Uruguay under Future Farm or Hacienda Futuro. Future Farm is a World Changing Ideas 2020 Fast Company.

Kemin Industries Inc. is headquartered in Des Moines, Iowa, USA. Its product catalog includes over 500 special ingredients for animal health and nutrition, aquaculture, pet food and rendering, food technologies, crop technologies and textile industries. “Kemin’s membership in RTRS allows us to support our customers’ interests and contribute to responsible practices globally. As a company committed to sustainably transforming the quality of life, we recognize RTRS as a valuable component of our
supply chain tool kit that can help us ensure a more sustainable future,” said Heather Christensen, Kemin Industries Inc. Global Sustainability Coordinator.

Mole Valley Feed Solutions Ltd. is the second largest animal feed manufacturer in the United Kingdom. It is a subsidiary of Mole Valley Farmers and operates in 56 rural points of sale, including Mole Valley Farmers, Mole Country Stores and Farm direct, plus direct sales to ag producers. The company also commercializes animal food, fertilizers and other farming inputs.

My Flame Lifestyle B.V., from The Netherlands, a company specialized in soy candles and home fragrances. It also markets matches in bottles, jars, fragrance sticks, room sprays and hand soaps. The company develops its own trademark as well as successful concepts and trademarks for third parties.

“Sustainability and responsibility runs in our DNA in the broadest sense. Our scope for responsibility goes beyond our organization as we try to involve all our stakeholders as much as possible. This way we aim to keep our planet earth a beautiful place to live for thousands of generations to come” said Annefiet Brandjes, My Flame Lifestyle B.V. co-founder.

PepsiCo Inc is a world food and beverage leading manufacturer. Its line of products includes 22 well-known trademarks, some of them oat, soy and other grain-based foods, and flagship sodas.
Highlights

At its core, PepsiCo is an agricultural company. The company sources crops and ingredients from 60 countries and supports over 100,000 agricultural jobs. Natasha Schwarzbach, Sustainable Raw Materials Manager, explained: “A steady, sustainable supply of crops is central to our business, and we aim to use our scale and reach to help transform the way the world farms and make our food system more resilient. An important part of that mandate is responsible soy production. In recent years, the rise of regenerative agricultural practices has shown that we have the ability to reimagine global agriculture to become a force that helps heal the earth. Working with the RTRS is a key element to spreading regenerative practices and furthering a more sustainable future.”

Skretting Yem Uretim ve Tic. A.S. is a world leader in aquaculture, feed manufacturing and wholesale distribution. Skretting applies its knowledge on ingredients and fish and shrimp nutritional needs to develop innovations with optimal nutritional value, sustainable production and economic performance.

Terrena Group is a multipurpose agriculture cooperative from western France that produces soy-containing animal feed, among other products. The coop animal feed production facilities the use of raw materials to supply cattle farming.

The Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company is one of the largest multinational tire manufacturing companies. It manufactures tires in 46 facilities located in 21 countries. It produces Goodyear tires and other very respected international trademarks, including Dunlop, Kelly, Fulda, Sava and Debica. Another business line offers rubber and polymer products to a variety of
markets. The two Goodyear innovation centers in Akron, Ohio and Colmar-Berg, Luxemburg, develop state-of-the-art products and services that set the industry technological and performance standard.

“Goodyear, the global tire manufacturer, joins RTRS because we commit to introducing more sustainable and holistic practices in our product manufacturing and operations. To reduce issues relative to the tire supply chain, land hoarding and deforestation, Goodyear has committed to a very active selection of more sustainable materials that offer the same quality and product performance as well as of suppliers that comply with fair working conditions, sustainable harvest practices and share our values,” explained Jeffrey Schneider, Director of Natural, Synthetic Rubber Supply and Rubber Chemical Products.

Producers (9)

**Agropecuaria Busanello S.A.** is a leading agricultural company in Paraguay constantly seeking continuous improvement. It promotes sustainability, compliance with ISO 9001 and customer satisfaction. Agropecuaria Busanello S.A. produces and commercializes grains in partnership with traders, under continuous improvement concepts and in favor of a more sustainable production.

Jaime Busanello, Agropecuaria Busanello’s manager says: “We’d like to produce soy that is responsible for the environment, the community and economically viable. We would also like to be more involved in the sustainable production and market demand debates.”
**Highlights**

**Agrosoy S.A.** produces responsible soy that cares for the environment and offers job opportunities in Mariscal Francisco Solano Lopez, Caaguazú Department, Paraguay where the company operates under the three sustainable development guiding principles: production that is environmentally friendly, socially adequate and economically viable.

**Kimex SRL** is a producer from Paraguay with the mission to develop agriculture and agribusiness so that they can be economically competitive and socially responsible. They intend to be a reference in the market by creating and adding value to their products through green practices that are community-friendly.

**Iruña S.A.I.C.** is a family-owned company that provides high quality seeds, protects the environment and secures the well-being of their employees. As an RTRS certified producer, the company implements management and control mechanisms that include caring for the environment, proper management of its human resources and welfare programmes for community entities and members.

Alexandre Poland, from Iruña SAIC, provides more insight on the relevance of sustainable soy production and highlights the importance of good agricultural practices as a starting point to attain sustainability. "If we analyze our participation in the supply chain, we can say that producers make a considerable commitment and play an important role. It is absolutely relevant to share a common space with all the different sectors that sit at the RTRS dialog table to give first-hand information and highlight the work done by producers, to start building recognition for their efforts," he says.
CUMA de la Vallée de la Trouille is a cooperative from the north of France with a membership of almost 100 farmers. The main crops are corn, potatoes and sugar beet. Besides, as agro-industrial demand increased due to the development of local soy supply networks, the coop started growing soybeans.

Gaec Noury is a French dairy farm. Its owner, Damien Lecuir, is also president of Les 3 Vallées Farmers Association that groups 150 producers. At the request of its customers, the company has started growing soy locally and is planning to start supplying soy in France.

“As producers we have to raise awareness among other Association members on the strengths and weaknesses of soy production. That is how we can foster work in synergy with every RTRS member,” underlined Damien Lecuir, Gaec Noury’s owner.

Fulsingh Bidwan is a soy producer in Madhya Pradesh, in India. He grows soybean in 38,330 ha under the monitoring of ISH Agritech Private Limited sustainable agriculture programme. He is a member of ISH Agritech Private Limited and got his RTRS certification in 2020.

Hootaway Farms is a family-owned company that uses technology to optimize their use of agricultural inputs and avoid any environmental impact. Its goal is to become one of the most efficient agricultural resources users in its region, in Canada.
Highlights

Stuart Adams, Hootaway Farms Manager says: “We focus on soil health and ecosystems. Soy production is part of our overall rotation strategy of corn and hay/meat.”

Salentein Argentina BV. is a Dutch company that operates in Argentina and Uruguay. It focuses on agriculture, cattle farming and wine production with the highest standards of quality. The company is committed to environment protection and the well-being of everyone in its production process.

Rubén Juan Zaragoza, Salentein Argentina BV Sustainability Manager guarantees that the company operates in a responsible manner in all its different business units: “Our wines are well known for being certified under the most stringent standards and we strive to follow the same path in our farming. RTRS certification has shown that sustainable production is possible and it positions us in a positive place before the new challenges created by the growing global demand,” says Zaragoza.

Civil Society Organizations (1)

The Research and Development Center for Children Food Quality in Xinhua, China, was officially created on November 20, 2013 under the initiative of a national leadership group that works on food safety for the young and children and the Nation. It is a national organization for the public well-being that focuses on developing the quality of foods for teenagers and children in China.