



ROUND TABLE ON RESPONSIBLE SOY ASSOCIATION (RTRS)

UTOQUAI 29/31 | 8008 ZÜRICH, SWITZERLAND

Document name	RTRS Standard for Responsible Corn Production Version 1.0
Document reference	RTRS Standard Responsible Soy production V3.1
Date	
Produced by	<p>This document was developed by the Technical Unit of the RTRS with inputs from the Technical Working Groups after 2 meetings, on August 14th 2019, Brazil and September 12th, Argentina.</p> <p>The document was formally endorsed and approved by the Executive Board Members on and approved by the GA on</p>

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:

RTRS Technical Unit

technical.unit@responsiblesoy.org

and cc: info@responsiblesoy.org

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.



Preamble

The RTRS Standard for Responsible Soy Production, developed in 2010 after a multi-stakeholder process, was created to guide soybean producers towards a responsible production.

RTRS' certified producers are required to implement good agricultural practices that include zero tillage, balanced fertilization and crop rotation, amongst other. At the same time, as corn is the typical crop used to rotate with soy in most countries where RTRS is present, the RTRS Standard for Responsible Corn Production is considered to be a good complement to the existent Soy Production Standard.

The RTRS Standard for Responsible Soy Production includes applicable requirements for soy related issues -mainly farming issues-, but also covers social, environmental and economic issues that are potentially applicable to the production of other crops.

In 2015 RTRS developed a first approach towards the RTRS Standard for Responsible Corn Production and, in 2019, the RTRS Executive Board decided to continue with the process in order to launch this new certification scheme in 2020.

The RTRS Standard for Responsible Corn Production is intended to be applicable for all RTRS certified soybean producers that are willing to include their corn production in their certified farms under this new scope.

The "RTRS Standard for Responsible Corn Production" is supplementary to the RTRS soy certification, meaning that cannot be certified independently of the RTRS Standard for Responsible Soy Production.



Principle 1 Legal Compliance and Good Business Practices

	Guidance
1.1. Principle, Criteria and Indicators in the RTRS Standard for Responsible Soy Production are fulfilled at main audit and applicable to corn production.	
1.2. Corn production should comply with all laws in common with soy production, and in case of existence of specific regulations applicable to corn production will also have to demonstrate compliance with applicable laws	Guidance 1.2 Example of a regulation applicable for corn production could be "non planting unauthorized biotechnological events"



Principle 2

Responsible Labour Conditions

	Guidance
2.1. Principle, Criteria and Indicators in the RTRS Standard for Responsible Soy Production are fulfilled at main audit and applicable to corn production.	
2.2. Permanent (direct and indirect) and seasonal workers that also perform activities at the soy production will only need to be audited regarding specific activities for corn in areas like training and safety.	Guidance 2.2 Examples of this could include irrigation, equipment management; corn seeds production; among others.
2.3. Those direct and indirect employees that do not participate in soy production but do participate in corn production should be audited according to the Principle 2 of the RTRS Standard for Responsible Soy Production.	
2.4. All Health and Safety trainings shall include every special aspect that have to be considered for corn production	Guidance 2.4 Examples of this could include different agrochemicals and its use, safety measures As corn is taller than soy, special attention shall be taken care when areal application of agrochemicals and harvest activities are being done.



ROUND TABLE ON RESPONSIBLE SOY ASSOCIATION (RTRS)

UTOQUAI 29/31 | 8008 ZURICH, SWITZERLAND

2.5.	Harvesting interval should be respected, as well as all re-entry periods, to guarantee, not only the safety of products but also the safety of personnel in the field	
------	---	--

Principle 3 Responsible Community Relations

		Guidance
3.1.	Principle, Criteria and Indicators in the RTRS Standard for Responsible Soy Production are fulfilled at main audit and applicable to corn production.	
3.2.	Corn production could not be in conflict with surrounding community interests.	Guidance 3.2 This is audited at the third-party stakeholder's interviews during the audit.

Principle 4 Environmental Responsibility

		Guidance
4.1.	Principle, Criteria and Indicators in the RTRS Standard for Responsible Soy Production are fulfilled at main audit and applicable to corn production.	



Principle 5

Good Agricultural Practices

	Guidance
5.1. Principle, Criteria and Indicators in the RTRS Standard for Responsible Soy Production are fulfilled at main audit and applicable to corn production.	
5.2. Producers shall know the amount of nutrients removed by maize and, in order to maintain soil fertility, shall replace these nutrients with mineral and /or organic fertilizers.	Guidance 5.2 This fertilization plan shall include Nitrogen fertilization
5.3. In the case of irrigation being used for the corn production, the producer shall document the calculation of water needs.	Guidance 5.3 Registry of date and volume per irrigation unit shall be kept.
5.4. When BT corn is sown, 10% of the lot surface shall be left as refuges (non-BT blocks to avoid resistance pressure).	Guidance 5.4 The percentage may vary according to the legislation of the different countries. Source: http://www.programamri.com.ar/refugio/
5.5. Producers shall monitor and document scouting for pests (insects, diseases	Guidance 5.5 Documentation shall only include date, lot visited and the decision to intervene (should occur).



ROUND TABLE ON RESPONSIBLE SOY ASSOCIATION (RTRS)

UTOQUAI 29/31 | 8008 ZÜRICH, SWITZERLAND

	and weeds) to determine if, when and how intervention should occur.	
5.6.	Producers shall monitor, control and document the crop residue to avoid insect pest problems in pre-sow and pre-emergence and sowing should always occur in a clean lot.	
5.7.	Harvest machinery shall be cleaned to help weed control.	