

Soft Commodities Forum → *2023 Progress Report*



World Business
Council
for Sustainable
Development

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Executive Summary

The Soft Commodities Forum (SCF), led by the World Business Council For Sustainable Development (WBCSD), enables collaboration between six leading agribusinesses to identify solutions that eliminate soy-driven deforestation and conversion of native vegetation in the Brazilian Cerrado.

Our progress highlights from December 2022 to November 2023 include:

Disclosure of deforestation- and conversion-free soy sourcing

This year's report presents the second round of DCF disclosures for soy volumes sourced in the SCF's 61 focus municipalities. Third-party auditing for both direct and indirect sourcing has been adopted, strengthening data accuracy and reliability. SCF member progress on DCF performance related to all 61 focus municipalities is presented in the Monitoring Land Use section of this report.

Indirect supplier engagement

Recognizing the pivotal role of engaging with indirect suppliers in our journey toward traceability and guaranteeing DCF soy sourcing, we have placed a strong emphasis on accelerating engagement with indirect suppliers.

Our structured three-step approach involves awareness-raising, capacity assessment and building, and co-development of action plans. Multiple training materials and a webinar series have been deployed to promote DCF practices to 35 indirect suppliers. In 2023, we have successfully engaged 21 indirect suppliers, classified by maturity levels (Class A, B, or C).

A reinforced partnership with the Consumer Goods Forum and a renewed Advisory Group

The SCF strives for meaningful engagement with several key stakeholders, including the Consumer Goods Forum Forest Positive Coalition (CGF FPC). Together, the SCF and CGF FPC are investing in mutual solutions that contribute to the emergence of forest-positive landscapes.

The SCF has also expanded its Advisory Group to encompass a diverse set of expertise, including carbon accounting, farmer engagement, and fundraising approaches.

The Farmer First Clusters initiative discloses initial results on farmer engagement

Following an extensive design phase in 2023, the Farmer First Clusters has begun its implementation and is proud to announce that as of November 2023, 22 producers representing 144,365 hectares have enrolled in the initiative.



Context



01.

01. Context

Acronyms and Abbreviations

CGF FPC	Consumer Goods Forum Forest Positive Coalition
DCF	Deforestation- and conversion-free
EUDR	European Union deforestation regulation
FFC	Farmer First Clusters
FM	Focus municipalities
IBGE	Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics
IBS	Instituto BioSistêmico
ICLF	Integrated crop-livestock-forest
JV	Joint venture
SCF	Soft Commodities Forum
WBCSD	World Business Council for Sustainable Development



01. Context

About the Soft Commodities Forum

The Soft Commodities Forum (SCF), led by the World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD), enables collaboration between six leading agribusinesses to identify solutions to eliminate soy-driven deforestation and native vegetation in the Brazilian Cerrado. The Cerrado is one of Earth's most biodiverse savannahs and home to 5% of the planet's animals and plants. By working in partnership with producers, consumer goods companies, civil society and governments, the SCF contributes to the preservation of high-priority ecosystems and the transition to more sustainable soy production supply chains, starting in the Cerrado.

In 2023, the SCF shifted from bi-annual reporting to an annual report published at the end of each calendar year, along with quarterly newsletters. This shift allows us to update SCF stakeholders on progress through more regular and timely updates while maintaining accountability on reporting progress and performance against stated targets.

This report outlines progress across the SCF's alignment of our strategy with the Agriculture Sector Roadmap to 1.5°C and the Farmer First Clusters initiative, and our three workstreams: land use monitoring, stakeholder engagement, and landscape transformation.



01. Context

SCF and the Agriculture Sector Roadmap

As part of the [Agriculture Sector Roadmap to 1.5°C](#), released during COP 27 (the United Nations Climate Change Conference) in November 2022, all six SCF members, along with two other co-signatories, signed the Soy Roadmap to 1.5°C, a collaborative effort to accelerate the elimination of deforestation in soy supply chains in line with a 1.5°C pathway. The Agriculture Sector Roadmap is built upon three pillars of action to be undertaken by agri-businesses:

1. Accelerate supply chain action to reduce emissions from land use change
2. Drive transformation of commodity producing landscapes
3. Support positive sector transformation

In 2023, the SCF has actively sought opportunities to align its efforts with the roadmap's ambitions and its own strategic objectives through two distinct initiatives:

- Firstly, the SCF has made significant investments in high-risk sourcing regions as part of the Farmer First Clusters initiative, which encourages sustainable land use and helps producers transition toward forest-positive practices in crucial soy-producing areas.
- Secondly, the SCF has maintained a continuous dialogue and collaboration with key soy value chain stakeholders to pursue common goals and seek solutions that simultaneously support producer livelihoods and contribute to deforestation- and conversion-free (DCF) soy supply chains.

In terms of non-deforestation and conversion policies and disclosures, the SCF has retained its DCF reporting.

In 2024, the SCF will conduct an evaluation to determine whether the Roadmap's deliverables may be harmonized with the SCF's strategic framework and mission to achieve complete sourcing traceability and credible DCF performance. The active engagement of all SCF members in the Roadmap's goals underscores their collective dedication to ending deforestation and conversion through sector-wide collaboration and transformation.



01. Context

Where We Work

The SCF's work focuses on 61 focus municipalities in the Cerrado biome that accounted for 25.9% of all soy planted there in the 2021/2022 crop year, or roughly 5.5 Mha of soy.¹

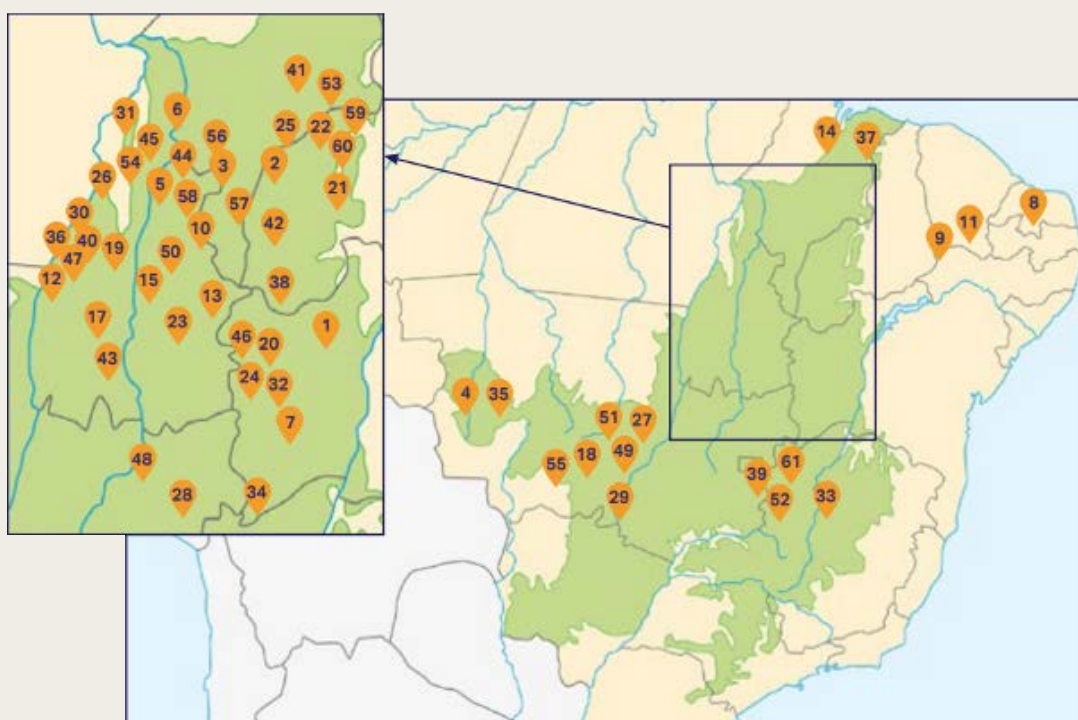
For this same geographic scope, the direct conversion of native vegetation to soy intensified in the focus municipalities during crop year 2021/22 – from 18,023 hectares in 2020 to 32,257 hectares in 2021.*

Our collaborative work seeks to address and prevent these losses through the protection of native vegetation while promoting sustainable soy cultivation.

The map below shows the 61 focus municipalities engaged in our work.

**Note these figures are indicative of conversion to soy trends in the 61 focus municipalities.*

Figure 1: The 61 focus municipalities



- | | | | |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. Aparecida do Rio - Negro | 17. Pium | 33. Buritizeiro | 49. Niquelândia |
| 2. Baixa Grande do - Ribeiro | 18. Planalto da Serra | 34. Cabeceiras | 50. Nova Nazaré |
| 3. Balsas | 19. Porto Nacional | 35. Campo Novo do Parecis | 51. Novo Acordo |
| 4. Campos de Júlio | 20. Riachão das Neves | 36. Caseara | 52. Novo São Joaquim |
| 5. Campos Lindos | 21. Ribeiro Gonçalves | 37. Caxias | 53. Paracatu |
| 6. Carolina | 22. Sambaíba | 38. Corrente | 54. Pastos Bons |
| 7. Correntina | 23. Santa Rosa do Tocantins | 39. Cristalina | 55. Pedro Afonso |
| 8. Currais | 24. São Desidério | 40. Dois Irmãos do Tocantins | 56. Poxoréu |
| 9. Formosa do Rio Preto | 25. Uruçuí | 41. Fernando | 57. Riachão |
| 10. Goiatins | 26. Abreulândia | 42. Falcão | 58. Santa Filomena |
| 11. Jaborandi | 27. Água Boa | 43. Gilbués | 59. Santa Maria do Tocantins |
| 12. Lagoa da Confusão | 28. Água Fria de Goiás | 44. Gurupi | 60. Sebastião Leal |
| 13. Mateiros | 29. Alto Araguaia | 45. Itacajá | 61. Sebastião Leal Unai |
| 14. Mirador | 30. Araguacema | 46. Itapiratins | |
| 15. Monte do Carmo | 31. Barra do Ouro | 47. Luís Eduardo Magalhães | |
| 16. Peixe | 32. Barreiras | 48. Marianópolis do Tocantins | |

¹ Agrosatélite, 2022. Technical Report: Cerrado soy dynamics with focus on the 61 priority municipalities updated for crop year 2021/22 vs. PRODES 2014-2021. Available at: https://wbcspublications.org/scf/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/Soy_Dynamic_2021-22_AGROSATELITE_SCF_December_2022.pdf

Monitoring *Land Use*



02.

02. Monitoring Land Use



Why we do it

Addressing deforestation and conversion risks starts with a transparent and credible understanding of where farmers grow soy. By tracing soy to its farm origin and identifying links to deforestation, conversion, or other environmental and social risks, our members can target their efforts and measure progress toward eliminating soy-driven conversion and deforestation in the Cerrado.



Where we are

Deforestation- and conversion-free performance disclosure

2022 was marked by a historic milestone, when SCF members disclosed their individual performance on first-party verified DCF volumes sourced in 2021 across the 61 focus municipalities. This disclosure sets a new standard for transparency and accountability within the industry.

Building on the momentum of our December 2022 report, this year's report presents the second round of DCF disclosures, following up on individual company DCF performance for soy sourced in the 61 focus municipalities. This report presents 2022 DCF data, whereas the 2022 report presented 2021 DCF data. To further ensure accuracy and reliability of our data, the SCF now uses third-party auditing for both direct and indirect suppliers, based on a shared SCF verification protocol.

DCF performance data is calculated according to the SCF's methodology which covers:

- Direct and indirect soy sourcing;
- Joint ventures of SCF members;
- The application of a robust verification protocol.

Its calculation rests upon the following ratio:

$$\frac{\text{Total volume of verified DCF soy purchased from farms in 61 FMs}}{\text{Total volume of soy purchased from farms in 61 FMs (direct and indirect)}} = \% \text{ Verified DCF}$$

Volumes sourced from indirect suppliers are counted as non-verified DCF when no farm level traceability is possible as per the official methodology agreed by SCF members for reporting.

Note: The Methodologies & References section of this report offers further detail and insights into our DCF methodology.

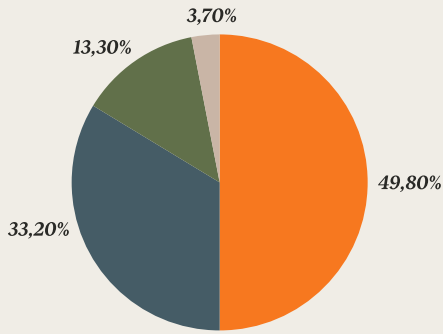




DCF Performance Disclosure

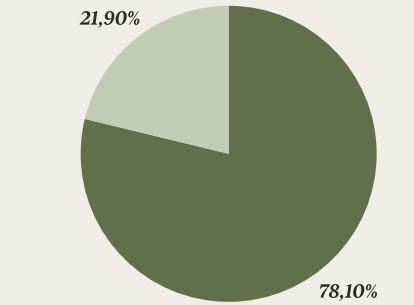
2021

Soy volume sourced from the **61 focus municipalities**, other Cerrado municipalities, and the rest of Brazil



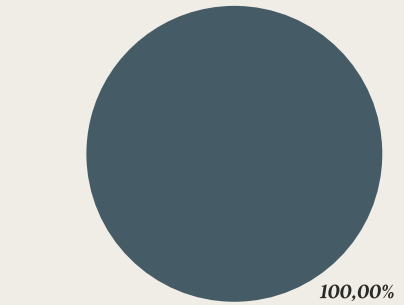
- Soy volume sourced from other biomes (**49,80%**)
- Soy volumes sourced in the Cerrado outside of the 61 FM (**33,20%**)
- Soy volume sourced in the 61 FM from direct suppliers (**13,30%**)
- Soy volume sourced in the 61 FM from indirect suppliers (**3,70%**)

Verified deforestation- and conversion free soy out of total volume of soy purchased from direct and indirect suppliers in the **61 focus municipalities**



- Verified DCF soy (%) Out of total volume of soy purchased directly and indirectly in the 61 focus municipalities (**78,10%**)
- Non-verified DCF soy (%) Out of total volume of soy purchased directly and indirectly in the 61 focus municipalities (**21,90%**)

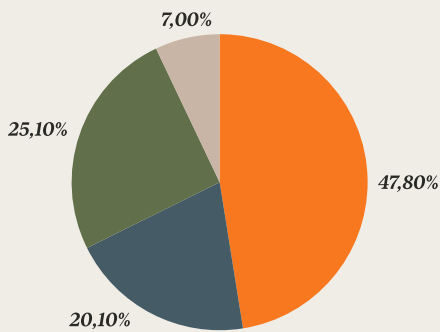
Mapping of indirect supplier traceability to the first point of aggregation



- Indirect supply traceable (%) to the first point of aggregation in the 61 focus municipalities (**100,00%**)

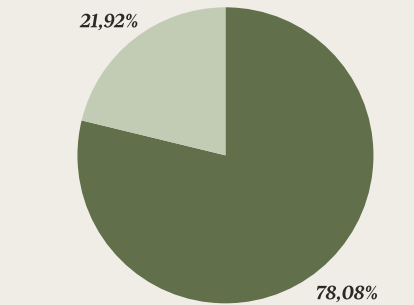
2022

Soy volume sourced from the **61 focus municipalities**, other Cerrado municipalities, and the rest of Brazil



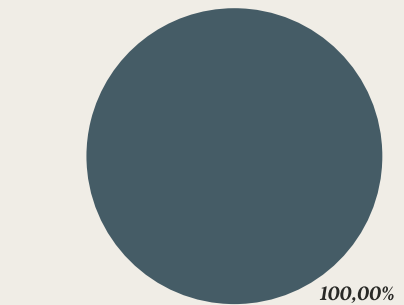
- Soy volume sourced from other biomes (**47,80%**)
- Soy volumes sourced in the Cerrado outside of the 61 FM (**20,10%**)
- Soy volume sourced in the 61 FM from direct suppliers (**25,10%**)
- Soy volume sourced in the 61 FM from indirect suppliers (**7,00%**)

Verified deforestation- and conversion free soy out of total volume of soy purchased from direct and indirect suppliers in the **61 focus municipalities**



- Verified DCF soy (%) Out of total volume of soy purchased directly and indirectly in the 61 focus municipalities (**78,08%**)
- Non-verified DCF soy (%) Out of total volume of soy purchased directly and indirectly in the 61 focus municipalities (**21,92%**)

Mapping of indirect supplier traceability to the first point of aggregation



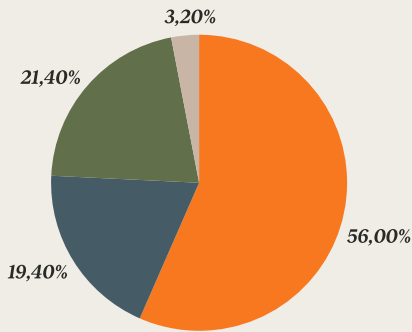
- Indirect supply traceable (%) to the first point of aggregation in the 61 focus municipalities (**100,00%**)



DCF Performance Disclosure

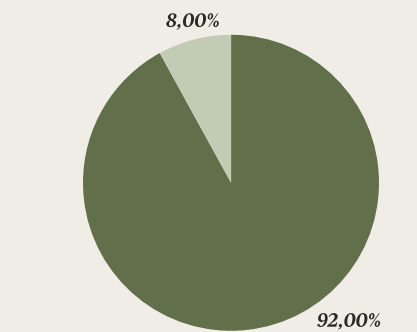
2021

Soy volume sourced from the **61 focus municipalities**, other Cerrado municipalities, and the rest of Brazil



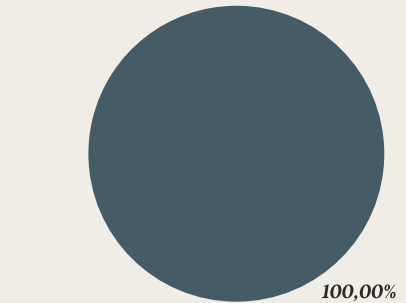
- Soy volume sourced from other biomes (**56,00%**)
- Soy volumes sourced in the Cerrado outside of the 61 FM (**19,40%**)
- Soy volume sourced in the 61 FM from direct suppliers (**21,40%**)
- Soy volume sourced in the 61 FM from indirect suppliers (**3,20%**)

Verified deforestation- and conversion free soy out of total volume of soy purchased from direct and indirect suppliers in the **61 focus municipalities**



- Verified DCF soy (%) Out of total volume of soy purchased directly and indirectly in the 61 focus municipalities (**78,00%**)
- Non-verified DCF soy (%) Out of total volume of soy purchased directly and indirectly in the 61 focus municipalities (**22,00%**)

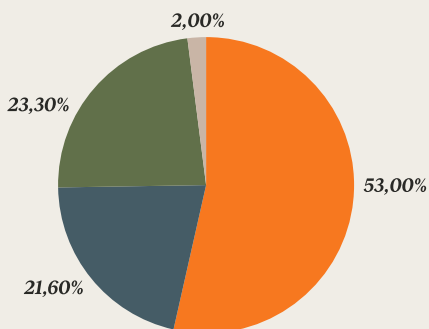
Mapping of indirect supplier traceability to the first point of aggregation



- Indirect supply traceable (%) to the first point of aggregation in the 61 focus municipalities (**100,00%**)

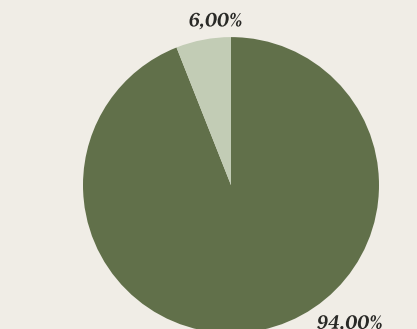
2022

Soy volume sourced from the **61 focus municipalities**, other Cerrado municipalities, and the rest of Brazil



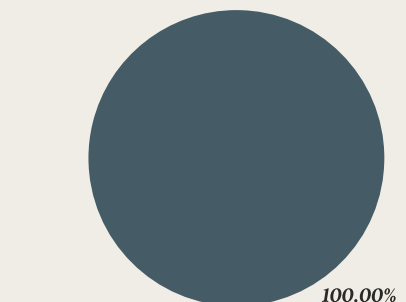
- Soy volume sourced from other biomes (**53,00%**)
- Soy volumes sourced in the Cerrado outside of the 61 FM (**21,60%**)
- Soy volume sourced in the 61 FM from direct suppliers (**23,30%**)
- Soy volume sourced in the 61 FM from indirect suppliers (**2,00%**)

Verified deforestation- and conversion free soy out of total volume of soy purchased from direct and indirect suppliers in the **61 focus municipalities**



- Verified DCF soy (%) Out of total volume of soy purchased directly and indirectly in the 61 focus municipalities (**94,00%**)
- Non-verified DCF soy (%) Out of total volume of soy purchased directly and indirectly in the 61 focus municipalities (**6,00%**)

Mapping of indirect supplier traceability to the first point of aggregation



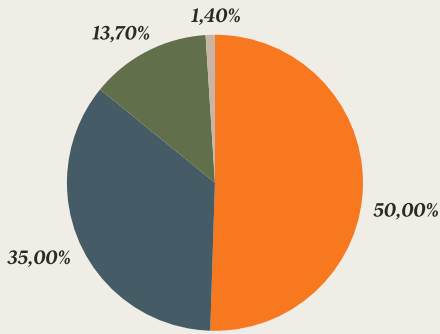
- Indirect supply traceable (%) to the first point of aggregation in the 61 focus municipalities (**100,00%**)



DCF Performance Disclosure

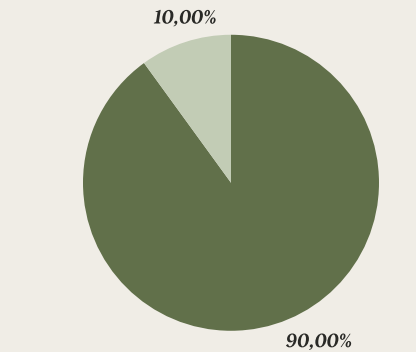
2021

Soy volume sourced from the **61 focus municipalities**, other Cerrado municipalities, and the rest of Brazil



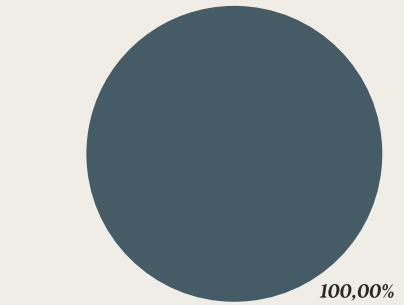
- Soy volume sourced from other biomes (**50,00%**)
- Soy volumes sourced in the Cerrado outside of the 61 FM (**35,00%**)
- Soy volume sourced in the 61 FM from direct suppliers (**13,70%**)
- Soy volume sourced in the 61 FM from indirect suppliers (**1,40%**)

Verified deforestation- and conversion free soy out of total volume of soy purchased from direct and indirect suppliers in the **61 focus municipalities**



- Verified DCF soy (%) Out of total volume of soy purchased directly and indirectly in the 61 focus municipalities (**90,00%**)
- Non-verified DCF soy (%) Out of total volume of soy purchased directly and indirectly in the 61 focus municipalities (**10,00%**)

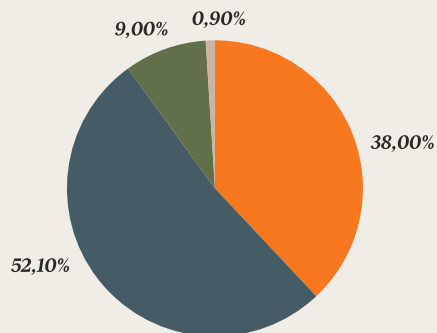
Mapping of indirect supplier traceability to the first point of aggregation



- Indirect supply traceable (%) to the first point of aggregation in the 61 focus municipalities (**100,00%**)

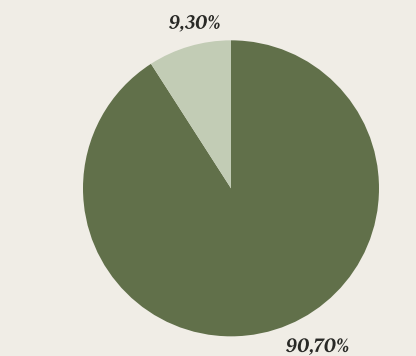
2022

Soy volume sourced from the **61 focus municipalities**, other Cerrado municipalities, and the rest of Brazil



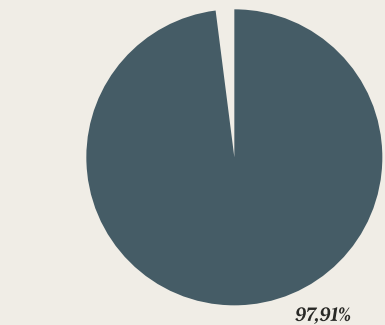
- Soy volume sourced from other biomes (**38,00%**)
- Soy volumes sourced in the Cerrado outside of the 61 FM (**52,10%**)
- Soy volume sourced in the 61 FM from direct suppliers (**9,00%**)
- Soy volume sourced in the 61 FM from indirect suppliers (**0,90%**)

Verified deforestation- and conversion free soy out of total volume of soy purchased from direct and indirect suppliers in the **61 focus municipalities**



- Verified DCF soy (%) Out of total volume of soy purchased directly and indirectly in the 61 focus municipalities (**90,70%**)
- Non-verified DCF soy (%) Out of total volume of soy purchased directly and indirectly in the 61 focus municipalities (**9,30%**)

Mapping of indirect supplier traceability to the first point of aggregation

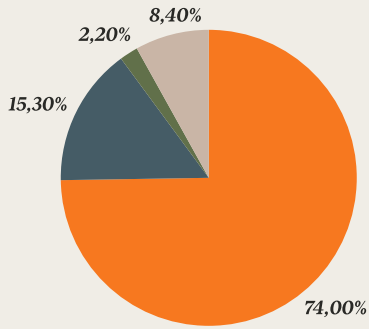


- Indirect supply traceable (%) to the first point of aggregation in the 61 focus municipalities (**97,91%**)



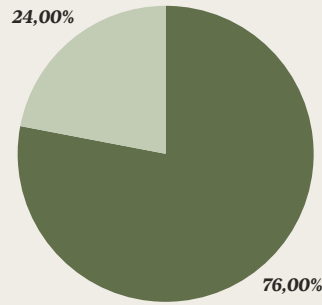
2021

Soy volume sourced from the **61 focus municipalities**, other Cerrado municipalities, and the rest of Brazil



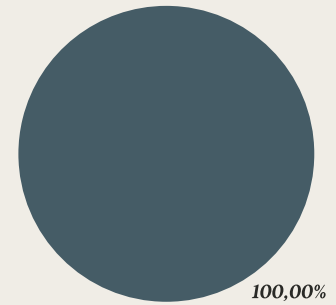
- Soy volume sourced from other biomes (**74,00%**)
- Soy volumes sourced in the Cerrado outside of the 61 FM (**15,30%**)
- Soy volume sourced in the 61 FM from direct suppliers (**2,20%**)
- Soy volume sourced in the 61 FM from indirect suppliers (**8,40%**)

Verified deforestation- and conversion free soy out of total volume of soy purchased from direct and indirect suppliers in the **61 focus municipalities**



- Verified DCF soy (%) Out of total volume of soy purchased directly and indirectly in the 61 focus municipalities (**76,00%**)
- Non-verified DCF soy (%) Out of total volume of soy purchased directly and indirectly in the 61 focus municipalities (**24,00%**)

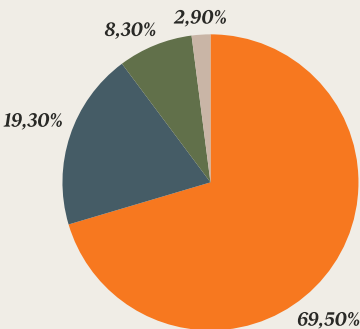
Mapping of indirect supplier traceability to the first point of aggregation



- Indirect supply traceable (%) to the first point of aggregation in the 61 focus municipalities (**100,00%**)

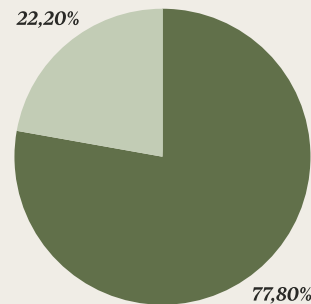
2022

Soy volume sourced from the **61 focus municipalities**, other Cerrado municipalities, and the rest of Brazil



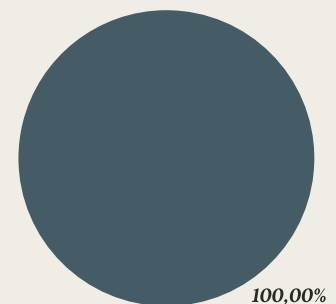
- Soy volume sourced from other biomes (**69,50%**)
- Soy volumes sourced in the Cerrado outside of the 61 FM (**19,30%**)
- Soy volume sourced in the 61 FM from direct suppliers (**8,30%**)
- Soy volume sourced in the 61 FM from indirect suppliers (**2,90%**)

Verified deforestation- and conversion free soy out of total volume of soy purchased from direct and indirect suppliers in the **61 focus municipalities**



- Verified DCF soy (%) Out of total volume of soy purchased directly and indirectly in the 61 focus municipalities (**77,80%**)
- Non-verified DCF soy (%) Out of total volume of soy purchased directly and indirectly in the 61 focus municipalities (**22,20%**)

Mapping of indirect supplier traceability to the first point of aggregation

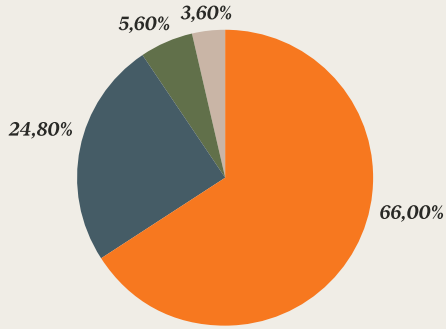


- Indirect supply traceable (%) to the first point of aggregation in the 61 focus municipalities (**100,00%**)

DCF Performance Disclosure

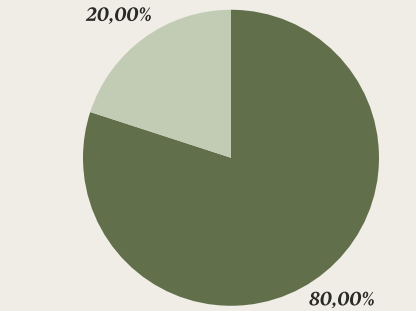
2021

Soy volume sourced from the **61 focus municipalities**, other Cerrado municipalities, and the rest of Brazil



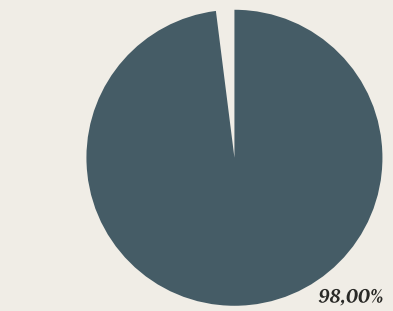
- Soy volume sourced from other biomes (**66,00%**)
- Soy volumes sourced in the Cerrado outside of the 61 FM (**24,80%**)
- Soy volume sourced in the 61 FM from direct suppliers (**5,60%**)
- Soy volume sourced in the 61 FM from indirect suppliers (**3,60%**)

Verified deforestation- and conversion free soy out of total volume of soy purchased from direct and indirect suppliers in the **61 focus municipalities**



- Verified DCF soy (%) Out of total volume of soy purchased directly and indirectly in the 61 focus municipalities (**80,00%**)
- Non-verified DCF soy (%) Out of total volume of soy purchased directly and indirectly in the 61 focus municipalities (**20,00%**)

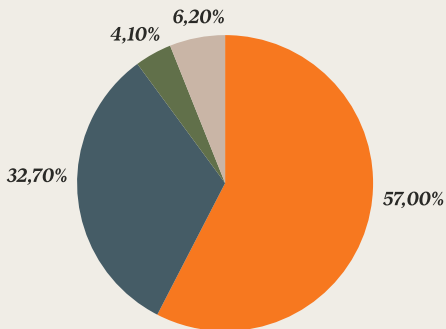
Mapping of indirect supplier traceability to the first point of aggregation



- Indirect supply traceable (%) to the first point of aggregation in the 61 focus municipalities (**98,00%**)

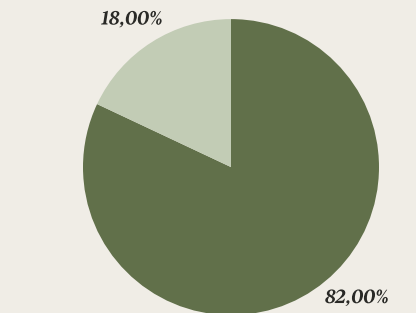
2022

Soy volume sourced from the **61 focus municipalities**, other Cerrado municipalities, and the rest of Brazil



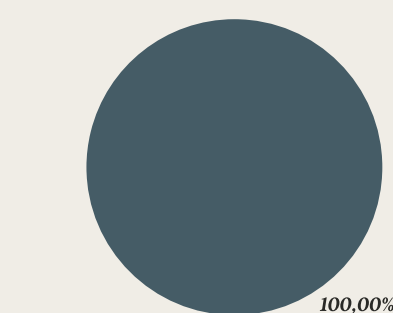
- Soy volume sourced from other biomes (**57,00%**)
- Soy volumes sourced in the Cerrado outside of the 61 FM (**32,70%**)
- Soy volume sourced in the 61 FM from direct suppliers (**4,10%**)
- Soy volume sourced in the 61 FM from indirect suppliers (**6,20%**)

Verified deforestation- and conversion free soy out of total volume of soy purchased from direct and indirect suppliers in the **61 focus municipalities**



- Verified DCF soy (%) Out of total volume of soy purchased directly and indirectly in the 61 focus municipalities (**82,00%**)
- Non-verified DCF soy (%) Out of total volume of soy purchased directly and indirectly in the 61 focus municipalities (**18,00%**)

Mapping of indirect supplier traceability to the first point of aggregation



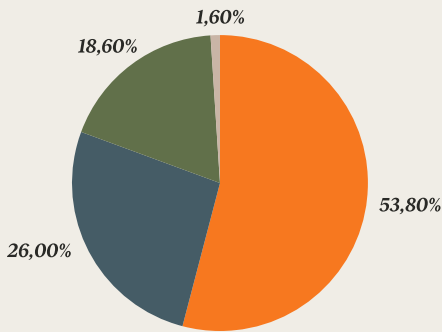
- Indirect supply traceable (%) to the first point of aggregation in the 61 focus municipalities (**100,00%**)



DCF Performance Disclosure

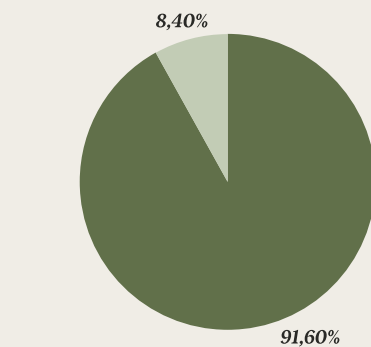
2021

Soy volume sourced from the **61 focus municipalities**, other Cerrado municipalities, and the rest of Brazil



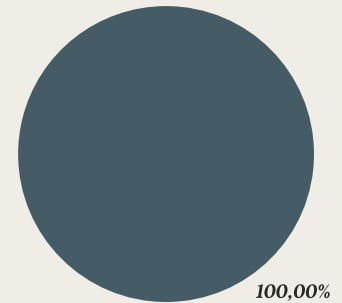
- Soy volume sourced from other biomes (**53,80%**)
- Soy volumes sourced in the Cerrado outside of the 61 FM (**26,00%**)
- Soy volume sourced in the 61 FM from direct suppliers (**18,60%**)
- Soy volume sourced in the 61 FM from indirect suppliers (**1,60%**)

Verified deforestation- and conversion free soy out of total volume of soy purchased from direct and indirect suppliers in the **61 focus municipalities**



- Verified DCF soy (%) Out of total volume of soy purchased directly and indirectly in the 61 focus municipalities (**91,60%**)
- Non-verified DCF soy (%) Out of total volume of soy purchased directly and indirectly in the 61 focus municipalities (**8,40%**)

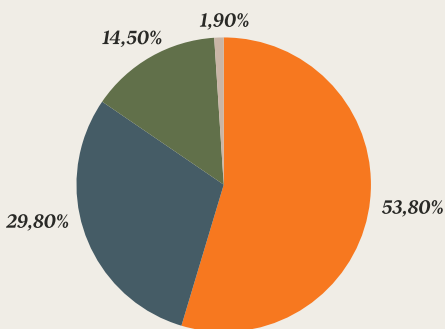
Mapping of indirect supplier traceability to the first point of aggregation



- Indirect supply traceable (%) to the first point of aggregation in the 61 focus municipalities (**100,00%**)

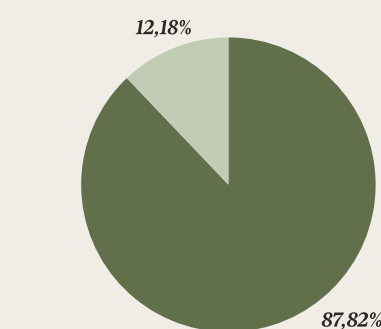
2022

Soy volume sourced from the **61 focus municipalities**, other Cerrado municipalities, and the rest of Brazil



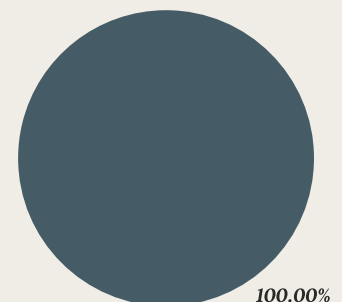
- Soy volume sourced from other biomes (**53,80%**)
- Soy volumes sourced in the Cerrado outside of the 61 FM (**29,80%**)
- Soy volume sourced in the 61 FM from direct suppliers (**14,50%**)
- Soy volume sourced in the 61 FM from indirect suppliers (**1,90%**)

Verified deforestation- and conversion free soy out of total volume of soy purchased from direct and indirect suppliers in the **61 focus municipalities**



- Verified DCF soy (%) Out of total volume of soy purchased directly and indirectly in the 61 focus municipalities (**87,82%**)
- Non-verified DCF soy (%) Out of total volume of soy purchased directly and indirectly in the 61 focus municipalities (**12,18%**)

Mapping of indirect supplier traceability to the first point of aggregation



- Indirect supply traceable (%) to the first point of aggregation in the 61 focus municipalities (**100,00%**)

Supply chain engagement: Accelerating the mobilization of indirect suppliers

Engaging indirect suppliers is vital for enhanced DCF performance. Soy resellers, cooperatives, warehouses and trading entities represent the remaining key stakeholders to be engaged in achieving traceability and proving DCF soy sourcing. Their partnership and engagement will clarify the status of soy-driven deforestation and native vegetation conversion in the Cerrado and pinpoint supply chain risks most in need of interventions.

Understanding indirect suppliers' current traceability practices provides insights for risk mitigation and collective action toward sustainable supply chains. To ensure the SCF's commitment to DCF standards, the Monitoring Land Use team has established a three-step process for engaging indirect suppliers:

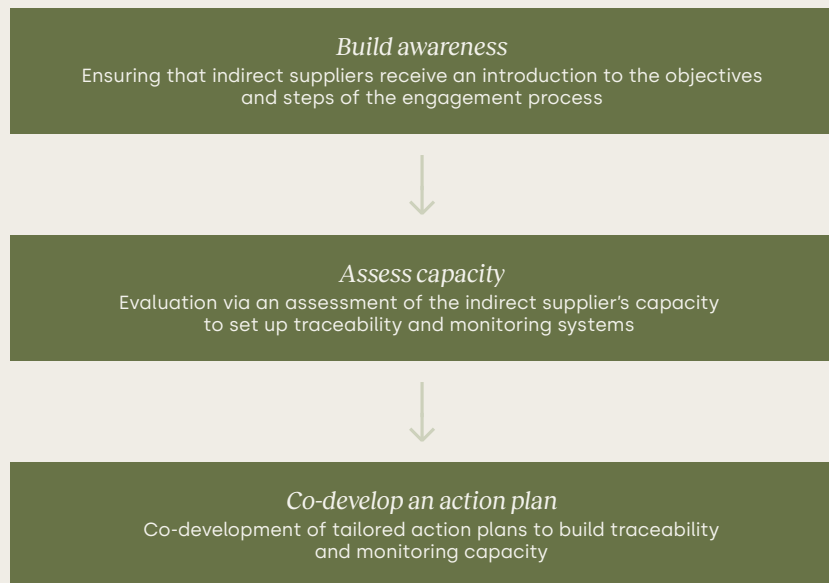
- Building awareness among indirect suppliers of the SCF's DCF objectives and steps for indirect supplier engagement;
- Assessing indirect supplier capacity to set up traceability and monitoring systems based on a 3-rank maturity classification (A-C) developed in collaboration with the Instituto BioSistêmico (IBS), a third-party auditor; and
- Co-developing action plans to build traceability and monitoring capacity.

Out of the indirect suppliers who underwent evaluation of their governance, social and environmental risks, 69% presented a steady score and 31% presented an improved score.

On awareness-building, multiple training materials, including a handbook and a webinar series, have been developed to promote better practices on supply chain governance and management of sustainability risks.

- So far, three webinars have been co-organized by ABIOVE and IBS in 2023, each dedicated to a thematic priority and each receiving broad participation from the soy sector (150+ indirect party representatives present at each session):
 - **A first webinar** organized in July was dedicated to the presentation of traceability and socio-environmental criteria for soy sourcing;
 - **A second webinar** took place in August to train indirect suppliers on tools and databases available for the evaluation of suppliers and rural properties;
 - **A third webinar** was organized in September to discuss practical cases and address questions about traceability, socio-environmental criteria and procedures.

Figure 2: Protocol for indirect supplier engagement



- To date, the SCF estimates that 35 indirect suppliers were mobilized via their participation in virtual workshops co-organized with ABIOVE and IBS.

In terms of capacity assessments, the SCF has successfully reached its engagement target of having 21 indirect suppliers classified according to a Class A, B or C maturity level (against an objective of 20). Of these 21, 3 indirect suppliers were selected as Class A indirect suppliers and are expected to have their traceability data verified through third party verification. Moreover, all indirect suppliers who had their score assessed have been engaged in the co-development of action plans. The SCF's indirect supplier engagement process aligns with the growing global recognition of the urgent need to protect native ecosystems from commodity-driven deforestation and conversion. This is further bolstered by recent EU legislation for DCF verification and other upcoming legislations, providing a strong foundation for effective indirect supplier engagement.



What's next

- In 2024, the SCF will update its DCF reporting scope and methodological parameters.
- By March 2024, an impact evaluation of the SCF's indirect supplier engagement strategy will provide a foundation for the design of its next phase.

Box 1: Types of indirect suppliers

Soy Resellers are intermediaries who purchase soy from producers and then sell it to other entities in the supply chain. They often aggregate soy from multiple sources and play a role in transporting soy from farms to processing facilities.

Cooperatives are organizations formed by groups of farmers who pool their resources and collectively manage various aspects of soy production, including cultivation, processing, and marketing.

Warehouses are storage facilities for soybeans and related products. They can hold soybeans for extended periods, allowing for efficient logistics and distribution within the supply chain.

Trading Sources are entities involved in the buying and selling of soybeans and soy-related products. They often act as intermediaries or brokers who facilitate transactions between different supply chain stakeholders, including producers and processors.



Stakeholder *Engagement*



03.

03. Stakeholder Engagement



Why we do it

This workstream is our outreach branch, fostering transparency, dialogue and collaboration with external stakeholders. The SCF engages both upstream and downstream stakeholders and value-chain partners for two primary purposes:

- Build strong coalitions for a DCF agenda; and
- Leverage landscape investment through forest finance and public-private partnerships



Where we are

Building strong DCF coalitions with producers, advisors and downstream supply chain partners

Producer engagement

SCF members connect sourcing supply with global markets via their broad network of soy producers. One of the Farmer First Clusters initiative's main assets is the program's capacity to tap into the pool of farmers that SCF members provide as a key parameter for scalability.

Essential to the Farmer First Clusters' deployment and success is mobilizing producers through raising awareness on the role that the initiative's financial incentives can play in supporting sustainable land use management.

A renewed Advisory Group

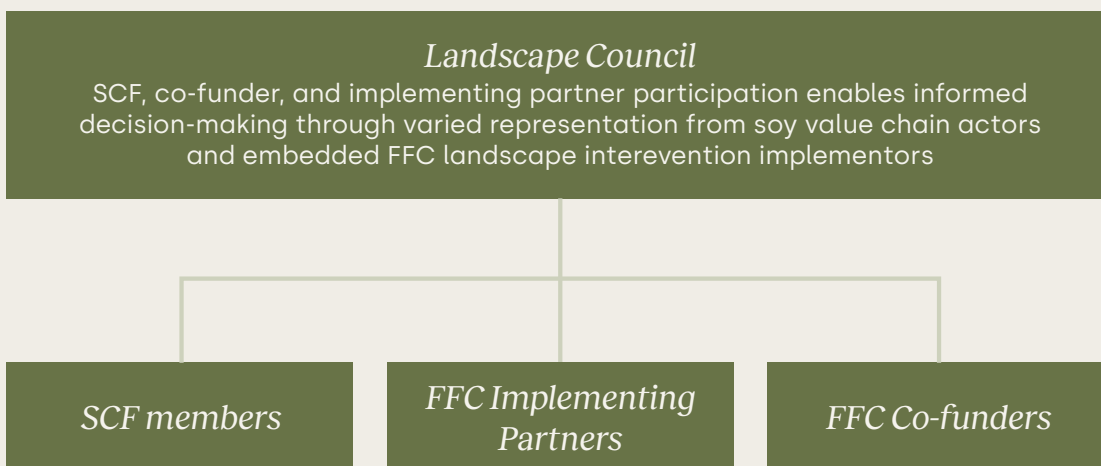
To effectively guide the SCF's strategy, a wide range of expertise encompassing areas such as carbon accounting, farmer engagement and financing approaches for landscapes is necessary. As a result, the SCF has expanded its Advisory Group to include individuals who bring these diverse perspectives into the decision-making process.

Our advisors play a crucial role in keeping us on track with the most important sustainability goals within our industry and our defined boundaries. They also ensure that our standards and methods receive recognition from a wide range of stakeholders. Their support will be essential in further solidifying the business case for, and effectively carrying out, the Farmer First Clusters initiative.

Advisory Group composition:

- João Adrien, Technical Advisor at Brazilian Rural Society
- Petra Ascher, Director at Agrichains Brazil Project - GIZ
- Thomas Blackburn, Head of Business Development at SustainCert
- Petra Tanos, Head of Private Sector Engagement at Tropical Forest Alliance

Figure 3: SCF Landscape Council structure



CGF-SCF engagement

The **Consumer Goods Forum's (CGF) Forest Positive Coalition (FPC)** and the SCF share a responsibility to support supply chain transformation in commodity-producing landscapes. To address this responsibility, the SCF collaborates with the FPC on landscape initiatives in high-risk areas of the Cerrado, as outlined in Box 2 below.

Together, we concentrate investment in regions where mutual solutions are deployed to promote forest-positive practices and outcomes at the local level.

Collaboratively, SCF and FPC investments in priority landscapes have resulted in the development of a shared Monitoring & Evaluation framework. Looking ahead to 2024, this partnership aims to establish standardized methods for quantifying landscape financing and monitoring the collective impact of interventions with shared reporting mechanisms.

Throughout 2022 and 2023, the FPC also consulted the SCF on the identification of deforestation and conversion risk factors to assess the feasibility of implementing DCF supply chains. During this consultation, the SCF encouraged individual FPC members to engage independently with relevant customer requests in this regard.

"In 2022, the FPC and SCF worked together to establish a common monitoring and evaluation framework. This framework serves as a vital instrument to measure the impact of landscape interventions and to pinpoint the municipalities that demand our collective attention. Furthermore, the FPC has joined the Landscape Council, a centralized platform that unites SCF and common implementing partners. Through this alliance, our goal is to foster collaborations and channel collective investments towards sustainable production landscapes."
















Aurélie Oberti


Member of Soy Working Group at the Consumer Goods Forum's Forest Positive Coalition and Global Sustainability Lead (Grains, Forest & Land) at Mars Petcare

Box 2: Mutual SCF-FPC landscape interventions

The Farmer First Clusters and the Forest Positive Coalition support complementary initiatives in two out of the four SCF landscapes: payment for surplus legal reserve through **CONSERV** and technical assistance with **Produzindo Certo** in Mato Grosso, and integrated farming projects in partnership with Solidaridad and **Conservation International** in Tocantins.

The green-highlighted cells below indicate potential co-funding opportunities within the same landscape and the same implemented solution.

Farmer First Clusters Co-Funding									
	Western Mato Grosso			Southern Maranhão		Southern Tocantins		Western Bahia	
									
									

 co-funding the same solution between SCF and CGF companies

Forest finance and public-private partnerships: paths to scaling the Farmer First Clusters initiative

Collaboration with the Forest Investor Club

The SCF has partnered with the [Forest Investor Club](#) to assess and develop strategies to support long-term financing of the Farmer First Clusters initiative. Launched by the U.S. State Department and led by WBCSD as Secretariat, the Forest Investor Club is a global network of leading private and public sector investors committed to accelerating investment in forests and nature-based solutions. Recognizing the need to scale the Farmer First Clusters beyond its initial USD \$7.2 million pilot and ensure it can be financially self-sustaining while fostering a new potential opportunity to meet investor demand, the Forest Investor Club is helping to identify potential revenue drivers, financial structures, and overall economics of the program as part of an initial study assessing the "Farmer First Clusters Case for Investment".

Public private partnerships (public/blended capital)

The USD \$345 million [Food Systems, Land Use and Restoration Impact Program \(FOLUR\)](#), led by the World Bank, aims to transform food and land use in 27 countries, including Brazil. In 2023-24, the SCF and FOLUR will assess the synergy between the Farmer First Clusters initiative and the FOLUR

program in Brazil. A comparative analysis of their geographies, MRV systems, scalability principles, investments and governance will uncover potential synergies.

In 2023, the SCF significantly expanded its stakeholder engagement activities to scale the Farmer First Clusters initiative, as exemplified by its interactions with the UK government and the [Food Action Alliance \(FAA\)](#), a World Economic Forum multi-stakeholder platform. The FAA [selected the Farmer First Clusters as an investable flagship project to advance sustainable food systems in Brazil](#). Additionally, [the SCF welcomed UK government representatives on a field trip to Western Bahia](#) to explore challenges and opportunities related to sustainable production in the Cerrado.



What's next

- In June 2024, the SCF will announce a joint investment strategy in priority Cerrado landscapes with the CGF FPC.
- A comparative analysis of geographic scope, monitoring and evaluation systems, scalability principles, collective investments and governance will be developed with the FOLUR program to uncover potential synergies.



Transform *Landscapes*



04.

04. Transform Landscapes



Why we do it

The SCF is at the forefront of mobilizing partnerships that identify, invest in and scale solutions for more sustainable land use in Brazil and beyond. Together, these solutions make up the Farmer First Clusters - a landscape initiative that places producers at the heart of decision-making about how they manage, farm and conserve their land.



Where we are

The SCF members have committed to investing up to USD \$7.2 million to create a financial model for scalable funding, aided by technical implementation support and strategic co-funding partnerships. We have also established a rigorous Monitoring & Evaluation framework, Farm Eligibility Criteria and DCF commitments to be met by farmers, alongside a careful partner selection process.

Our implementing partners have begun engaging producers in key Farmer First Clusters landscapes, yielding initial results that align with our core mission of creating a sustainable financial model through innovative solutions.

Implementing partners of the Farmer First Clusters initiative

We collaborate with diverse partners, leveraging their knowledge and expertise to advance our goals in sustainable soy production in the Cerrado region:



IPAM, through its CONSERV project, financially compensates rural producers in the Cerrado and Amazon regions for preserving surplus native vegetation, with a focus on protecting 7,000 hectares of native vegetation through ecosystem services payments and policy actions.



A conservation and research center dedicated to restoring native vegetation on previously degraded agricultural and pastureland in Western Bahia, aiming to restore 300 hectares of native vegetation annually.



An agri-tech platform operating in compliance with Brazil's Forest Code, Produzindo Certo offers technical solutions and assistance to soy farmers, with a goal of engaging and assisting 240 soy farmers across multiple states.

Solidaridad

As a pioneer in sustainable supply chain engagement, Solidaridad focuses on promoting sustainable and integrated farming practices, providing training sessions and demonstrative units for producers and extensionists.



A public-private association, Rede ILPF promotes agroforestry through integrated crop-livestock-forestry practices, offering integrated farming training and implementing financial mechanisms to support such practices.

Table 1: SCF members commit to contribute up to USD\$7.2 million across the 6 FFC solutions



SOLUTION	SURPLUS LEGAL RESERVE	RESTORATION OF DEGRADED LAND	SUSTAINABLE PRODUCTION + FOREST CODE COMPLIANCE	INTEGRATED FARMING	EXPANSION OVER PASTURELAND	GREEN FINANCE	TOTAL SCF MEMBER CONTRIBUTION
Budget as of December 2022	USD \$3,050,000	USD \$1,400,000	USD \$1,550,000	USD \$800,000	USD \$400,000	FFC Co-funders and partners	Up to USD \$7,2 million

Table 2: Summary of FFC landscape implementation strategy






<i>Mapping & Engagement</i> ↓	Map the target landscape and engage local stakeholders to identify a smart mix of solutions to be leveraged for shifts to more sustainable land use.
<i>Identify & Apply Incentives</i> ↓	Identify best fit strategic solutions for transitions to sustainable land use and apply the finance model in priority municipalities in the Cerrado.
<i>Mobilize Resources & Partnerships</i> ↓	Mobilize resources to support and scale the interventions with support from committed soy value chain partners, financial institutions and investors.
<i>Demonstrate Impact & Scale</i>	Scale investment measuring progress against metrics that are designed to demonstrate impact and offer a pathway to other organizations wishing to leverage investment to transform land use in commodity production countries.

Table 3: FFC farmer eligibility principles and solution-specific criteria

Farm eligibility *criteria per solution*

Principles of eligibility

- Acreage of support is proportional to individual company investment
- Farmers are eligible for multiple solutions, subject to the additionality of acreage preserved
- Social criteria: Farms must respect anti-slavery directives and must not be embargoed or included in any official slavery-lists (Lista Suja, Secretaria de Inspeção do Trabalho, Ministério da Economia)
- All farm sizes are eligible
- Smallholders:
 - The number of smallholder farms selected in the final lists is proportional to the number of smallholders share in initial company lists
 - The definition of smallholder will follow official municipality-level definitions

 <p>Financial compensation for surplus Legal Reserve</p> <p>Demonstrate excess of Legal Reserve overall all properties (self declarative and verifiable via CAR balance) and Forest Code compliance</p>	 <p>Sustainable Production</p> <p>No specific criteria; all producers are eligible</p>	 <p>Restoration</p> <p>Legal Reserve deficit and/or Degraded Permanent Preservation Area (PPA)</p>	 <p>Integrated Farming + Expansion over pastureland</p> <p>→ Plan to integrate/recover to soy</p> <p>→ Evidence of degraded pastureland</p> 
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In collaboration with ABIOVE and the above-listed partners, the SCF presents its preliminary progress report with quantitative results on farmer engagement and acreage, alongside qualitative data for contextual insights into FFC solution implementation, categorized per FFC landscape.

Landscape #1:

Western Mato Grosso

The SCF aims to address recent soy expansion in two high risk municipalities in Mato Grosso, Brazil's largest soy producer state

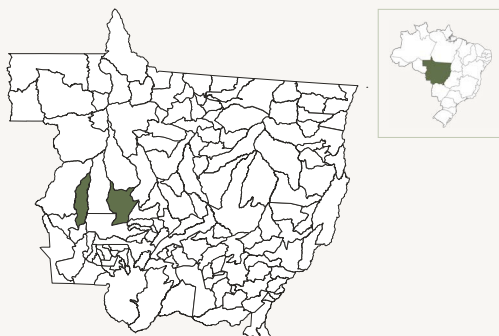
Solutions deployed and implementing partners mobilized

Compensation for surplus legal reserve with IPAM, coupled with technical assistance by Produzindo Certo and integrated farming solutions provided by Rede ILPF.

Progress

In Mato Grosso:

- **13 farms** have been successfully engaged in the Farmer First Clusters, representing a total area of **92,671 hectares**.



"The FFC plays a central role in engaging farmers in efforts to curb deforestation down, at the same time that rights are respected and production and productivity is increased."

- IPAM

Landscape #2:

Southern Maranhao

Hosting 10% of recent soy expansion, the Maranhao landscape ranks fourth for deforestation and conversion in the Cerrado. It houses four SCF high risk municipalities.

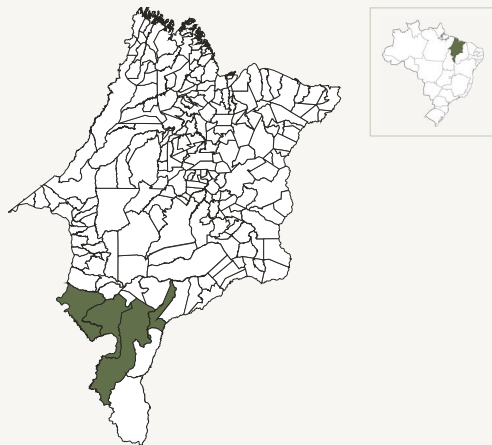
Solutions deployed and implementing partners mobilized

Compensation for SLR with IPAM and extension solutions with Produzindo Certo will pave the way for additional payments for surplus reserve and green finance.

Progress

In Southern Maranhão:

- **3 farms** have been successfully engaged in the Farmer First Clusters, representing a total area of **2,559 hectares**.



"The FFC strategy creates a positive ecosystem for companies and farmers acting in the soy production in the Cerrado. Through Produzindo Certo technology and technical assistance for sustainability, a tailor made action plan for the farm is developed, considering critical aspects of the production, and the soy output is powered with sustainability KPI's."

- Produzindo Certo

Landscape #3:

Southern Tocantins

Ranked first with 19% of recent soy expansion, the Tocantins landscape includes eight municipalities within the FFC scope.

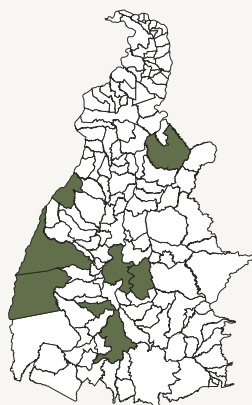
Solutions deployed and implementing partners mobilized

The Tocantins strategy aims to start by scaling up integrated farming and move forward providing expansion over pastureland by Solidaridad, extension solutions with Produzindo Certo and green finance.

Progress

In Southern Tocantins:

→ Results pending farmer engagement.



"The project will strengthen the actions of governmental institutions as well as partnerships with other local actors envisioning the overall increase of sustainable practices in the regional level."

- Solidaridad

Landscape #4:

Western Bahia

The second largest deforestation frontier in the Matopiba region, Bahia accounts for 16% of recent expansion. The SCF will engage seven municipalities in Western Bahia.

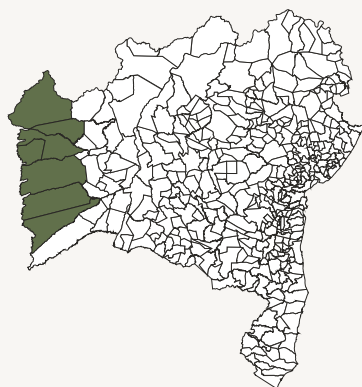
Solutions deployed and implementing partners mobilized

A pioneering restoration initiative by Conecta Cerrado will be scaled in the Western Bahia region along with sustainable production solutions deployed by Produzindo Certo.

Progress

In Western Bahia:

→ **6 farms** have been successfully engaged in the Farmer First Clusters, representing a total area of **49,135 hectares**.



"Bringing clarity and visibility through collective action strengthens the dialogue and demonstrates that the restoration needs are global and collective and must be addressed by all."

- Parque Vida Cerrado



What's next

→ In November 2024, the SCF will publish the Farmer First Clusters initiative annual progress report.

Stories *from the Field*



05.

05. Stories from the Field

In September 2023, the SCF published the second edition of its quarterly newsletter entitled “**Stories from the Field**”, featuring three articles that outline the work and perspectives of producers and partners of the **Farmer First Clusters**, our ongoing landscape financing effort.

A summarised version of the articles can be found below with links to the full articles attached.



Farmer First Clusters: Partnerships for Sustainable Land Use in the Cerrado

The Farmer First Clusters (FFC) has selected five partners to implement financial incentives, technical assistance and capacity-building actions to reduce deforestation and conserve native vegetation in the Brazilian Cerrado. The implementing partners will leverage their expertise in technology, business, agriculture, and stakeholder collaboration to support the employment of sustainable practices within soy production systems through a farmer-centric approach, fostering connectivity with other producers and local stakeholders.

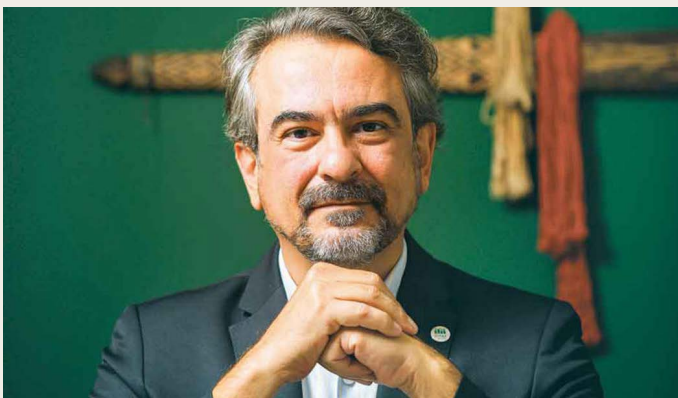
[Full Article →](#)



Insights from a Bahia soy producer: The challenges of nurturing sustainable farming in the Cerrado

Rural producer and owner of Sama Farm in the Brazilian Cerrado, Jarbas Bergamaschi – who cultivates soybeans, wheat, corn, and sorghum – discusses the importance of sustainable agriculture in Bahia and offers insights into his own experience implementing these practices on his farm in the western part of the region.

[Full Article →](#)



Forest-positive agriculture for sustainable soy production in Brazil: Interview with IPAM

Executive Director of the Amazon Environmental Research Institute (IPAM), André Guimarães, provides a historical and legal context of Brazil's agricultural system and explains the role that incentives can play in addressing unsustainable land use practices, and particularly how the Farmer First Clusters (FFC) helps engage and incentivize farmers to drive change.

[Full Article →](#)

Methodologies



06.

06. Methodologies

Selection of SCF focus municipalities

The SCF's scope accounts for 70% of recent native vegetation conversion to soy across 61 focus municipalities. The following methodological approach determines SCF members' scope for reporting and collective action:

- Out of the 5,570 municipalities in Brazil, SCF focus municipalities must have at least 95% of their territory in the Cerrado.
- The area of planted soy in focus municipalities must be larger than 5,000 hectares (PAM/IBGE 2020).
- Focus municipalities must rank highest according to the:
 - Area of native vegetation converted to soy (Agrosatélite 2019/20 Soy Expansion Report, and PRODES 2018/2019); and
 - Availability of remaining native vegetation in legal reserves suitable for soybean production.
- Focus municipalities must have at least two SCF members operating (sourcing or have physical presence) within their boundaries.

In accordance with its commitment to refresh its scope and set of focus municipalities every three years, the SCF will review and update these in 2024, as per the latest data available.

Monitoring traceable volumes

Members use the following methodological approach to individually produce the volume key performance indicators reported annually:

- **Soy volume sourced in the Cerrado:** The proportion (in tons) of soybean volume sourced by the member company from the Cerrado biome, in municipalities with at least 95% of its territory in the biome, compared with the total volume sourced outside of Brazil by the reporting company. This information is reported as the percentage of soy sourced in the Cerrado and the percentage of soy sourced in other biomes.
- **Soy volume sourced in focused municipalities in the Cerrado:** From the total determined in the first step, the percentage of soybean volume produced in the focus municipalities, by considering the origination municipality. This information is reported as the percentage of soy sourced in focus municipalities and the percentage of soy sourced in other Cerrado municipalities.

- **Direct and indirect sources:** From the total in the second step, the percentage of soybean sourced directly from farmers and the proportion sourced from third parties, by considering the type of activity of the supplier (using the supplier's tax registry number as a source to determine whether they are indirect resale, cooperative, warehouse or trading sources). This information is reported as the percentage of direct sourcing in focus municipalities and the rate of indirect sourcing in focus municipalities.

Reporting methodology for soy sourced by joint ventures

There are six factors to consider when reporting soy sourcing of joint ventures (JV) associated with an SCF member company. They depend on the awareness of JV operated volumes, control of JV operations and purchasing from a JV.

For each of these, there is a yes/no answer. The consolidated scenarios are:

When a company knows the JV's overall volumes

- If the SCF member controls the JV operations (i.e., it manages soy purchases from the JV), regardless of if it sources from the JV or not: report volume equivalent to its share in the JV as direct.
- If the SCF member does not control the JV but sources from it: report volumes effectively sourced by the SCF member as indirect.
- If the SCF member does not control and does not source from the JV: report volumes equivalent to its share as indirect.

When a company does not know the JV's overall volumes because it has no control over the JV's soy purchases

- If it sources from the JV: report as indirect.
- If it does not source from the JV: report volume as indirect based on the financial revenue from the JV through the mathematical rationale described below:
 - As a participant of the JV, the company has revenues from the JV expressed in USD \$ 000 (A).
 - The company has its own total revenue for the country expressed in USD \$ 000 (B).
 - $A/B = X\%$ of JV revenue representativeness over the company revenue. Companies shall consider such X% as a percentage of the company's total origination volume.
 - Companies shall add X% to the % of sourcing from the area and report as indirect.

Reporting methodology for deforestation- and conversion-free (DCF) soy

SCF measuring and reporting on DCF soy involves two indicators, each based on different data sources. Soy volumes sourced by joint ventures will integrate DCF calculations according to the established "Reporting methodology for soy sourced by joint ventures" described above.

DCF member reporting via individual company data

Sources:

- Monitoring farm area (polygon): based on data available from each company supply chain
- Soy area by polygon: Agrosatélite study for crop year 2021/22 or active farm monitoring by companies individually¹
- Conversion area: PRODES Cerrado 2021 and 2022, or similar private monitoring service
- Reference date: December 31st, 2020.

Indicator: DCF percentage of each company in the 61 focus municipalities (FMs)

Calculation:

$$\frac{\text{Total volume of verified DCF soy purchased from farms in 61 FMs}}{\text{Total volume of soy purchased from farms in 61 FMs (direct and indirect)}} = \% \text{ Verified DCF}$$

For the calculations of DCF percentage and volumes at farm-level, a 25-hectare threshold is applied, below which soy production can still be considered as DCF. This indicator will allow for progress to be shown over time, as increasing monitoring will be implemented throughout the whole sourcing chain. Thus, the indicator shows the extent to which companies have effectively monitored and verified soy volumes as DCF. Such individual results are verifiable.

Volumes sourced from indirect suppliers are counted as non-verified DCF when no farm level traceability is possible as per the official methodology agreed by SCF members for reporting.

DCF reporting at landscape level via external databases

Sources:

- Average municipality yield of the last three crop years (2018/19, 2019/20, and 2020/2021) with available information from IBGE (Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics)
- Conversion data from PRODES Cerrado 2021-2022 (covering six months of 2022 and one year of 2021), using a cut-off date of January 1st, 2021, to align with the EU deforestation regulation (EUDR)
 - Note: EUDR cut-off date is December 31st, 2020, so SCF member accounting for application as a reference date is December 31st, 2020.
- Application of a threshold of 25 hectares as minimum converted area
- Soy area from Agrosatélite study commissioned by ABIOVE for the crop year 2021/22¹

Indicator: percentage of DCF soy at landscape level in the 61 focus municipalities

Calculation:

$$\frac{\text{Total volume of DCF soy of 61 FMs}}{\text{Total volume of soy of 61 FMs}} = \% \text{ of DCF soy in the 61 focus municipalities}$$

¹ Agrosatélite, 2022. Technical Report: Cerrado soy dynamics with focus on the 61 priority municipalities updated for crop year 2021/22 vs. PRODES 2014-2021. Available at: https://wbcspdpublications.org/scf/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/Soy_Dynamic_2021-22_AGROSATELITE_SCF_December_2022.pdf

Verification protocol of data for traceability and deforestation- and conversion-free performance

The purpose of the SCF's verification protocol is to verify that soy sourced from the SCF focus municipalities is DCF and that volumes are traceable to farm.

The protocol is applied annually, using the calendar year prior to the current year of disclosure (e.g., the KPIs to be disclosed in 2022 refer to calendar year of 2021).

The verification will be carried out by assessing a sample of traceable suppliers. The sampling should be based on soy sourcing commercial reports, presenting a list of contracts from the 61 FMs with indication of farm polygon for the ones that are traceable to farm, including direct and indirect purchases.

In terms of the definition ascribed, "verification" considers that the information is validated by persons other than those involved in monitoring the operation or entity being assessed. Furthermore, "first-party verification" considers that the verification is carried out by personnel from the same company who did not participate in the operations under verification; whereas "third-party verification" encompasses an external entity to the company being audited.

A set of information should be checked by the party responsible for carrying out the verification process, including but not limited to:

- Digital copies of purchase contracts
- Digital copies of invoices (minimum one)
- Farm areas (polygons)
- Deforestation and conversion assessments
- Registries of DCF indicator calculation

Farmer First Clusters (FFC) methodology

FFC selection process for eligible farmers

The following three-step approach is used to for SCF member collective selection of participating farms in FFC solutions:

1. SCF members send a list of farms to the funds manager containing the following KPIs, which are not criteria for selection:
 - a. Surplus legal reserve or deficit legal reserve (LR)
 - b. The willingness of the producer
 - c. Smallholder yes/no
2. The list is reduced according to the farm selection criteria set by SCF members and implementing partners.
3. Implementing partners are responsible for prioritizing farm selection.



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Compliance

The SCF has processes and procedures in place to ensure that all of its actions are compliant with applicable laws, including antitrust.

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