



**Certified Responsible Soy Standard**

This standard can also be used to  
certify corn production on farms  
certified for soy production

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supportive  
by nature

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## Preface

Global demand for soya has grown considerably in recent years and still is. To safeguard production of soya, current and future, is done in a responsible way, Cefetra developed its own standard together with Control Union Certifications (launched in 2008): the Certified Responsible Soya standard, CRS in short.

This standard can be used to certify the soy production. If a producer does also cultivate corn on its farm, it is also possible to apply this standard to the corn production. It can however not be used as a stand-alone standard for corn.

### What characterizes the CRS standard:

**Compliance with the law:** All certified farmers must be able to show legal compliance with all applicable laws and legislation.

**Zero-conversion/deforestation:** the CRS standard does not allow any conversion (forest or other natural area) after 2009, and earlier for lands within the Amazon Biome.

**Area Mass Balance supply chain model:** Developed by and unique to Cefetra. For the area mass balance model, Cefetra takes the physical flow from South America as a starting point and certifies farms in the regions where the physical soybeans and *corn* are sourced. Hereby we ensure embedded sustainable soy in our supply chain, a more physical link with the supply chain compared to book and claim and impact is realized in the regions where we source our soy.

**Transparency:** The CRS Standard only contains major indicators, resulting in transparency towards producers and other stakeholders.

**No double claiming:** Within the CRS standard it is not possible to certify a farm according to different certification standards. This is actively monitored during the yearly audits.

**Inclusion:** The CRS Standard provides an opportunity for large, medium, and small-scale producers to obtain certification. For small-scale farmers, it is possible to certify CRS by the use of group certification.

**Long-term partnership with farmers:** Cefetra works closely together with farmers to ensure the improvement of sustainable practices on the farm. Cefetra commits itself to long-term partnerships, meaning the farmer has a guaranteed outlet to Cefetra as soon as it becomes certified.

**Periodicity:** The CRS Standard requires that all certified producers have to be audited on an annual basis by an independent third party.

**Principles:** CRS Standard covers the most important indicators to ensure ecologically sound and socially responsible soy, and even includes principles beyond these ensuring a high-level standard.

**Continuous Improvement:** The CRS Standard focuses on continuous improvement on the farm. **Detailed audit/compliance report:** Producers certified according to the CRS Standard receive a detailed report that allows them to track their developments to ensure continuous improvement, communicate their performance to clients, and obtain loans from investors by demonstrating independent acknowledgment of the implemented sustainable practices.

### The indicators of the CRS standard are divided under 7 principles:

- 1) Traceability;
- 2) Legal compliance;
- 3) Labor conditions;
- 4) Land rights;
- 5) Environmental responsibility;
- 6) Social responsibility;
- 7) Good Agricultural Practices (GAP).

In this document the indicators included in the CRS standard are listed. Besides this document, the following documents are also available (some publicly, some upon request) for the CRS standard:

- Inspector checklist;
- The normative document;
- Certified Responsible Soy Certification protocol;
- Group certification standard;
- CRS Guidance document – minimal deforestation;
- Chain of Custody document;
- Audits Area Mass Balance model document.

# The CRS standard

## 0. Definitions

For the definitions, a combination of the definitions of the Accountability Framework and the EUDR<sup>1</sup> are considered. In light of the CRS standard, the following definitions are adopted.

**Deforestation:** Loss of natural forest as a result of: i) conversion to agriculture or other non-forest land use, ii) conversion to a tree plantation; or iii) severe and sustained degradation. For this conversion, it does not matter if it was human-induced or not.

**Conversion:** Change of a natural ecosystem to another land use or profound change in a natural ecosystem's species composition, structure, or function.

**Degradation:** Changes within a natural ecosystem that significantly and negatively affect its species composition, structure, and/or function and reduce the ecosystem's capacity to supply products, support biodiversity, and/or deliver ecosystem services and hereby reducing the biological or economic productivity and complexity of forest ecosystems.

**Forest:** land spanning more than 0.5 hectares with trees higher than 5 meters and canopy cover of more than 10%, or trees able to reach those thresholds in situ, excluding agricultural plantations and land that is predominantly under agricultural or urban land use.

## 1. Traceability

As commodity trade is typically done in cost-efficient bulk, alternative models of traceability have been developed to make sure the intended investments in sustainability are done where these bring sustainability to a higher level fastest. Regardless, the total volume of certified, sustainably produced soya *and corn* must enter global supply chains in a measurable manner. Hence traceability at the start of supply chains is critical and is embedded in our standard.

1. At the farm there is a clear registration of parcel-identity (location): mark (written) parcels for certification.
2. Parcel identity/lot registration when harvested (label, storage plan, code).
3. The soy (and if certified: the corn) produced on the inspected fields are not included in any other sustainable certification program, with the purpose of selling sustainable soy/corn meal.

*Guidance: as such it is possible that CRS collaborates with another sustainability initiative, but the farm can only receive a certificate for one (or a joint) certificate. Meaning: the farm can only sell its produce once.*

## 2. Legal compliance

Producers shall understand and comply with all applicable laws, regulations and conventions. In addition to that they have chosen to also comply to our 'above-legal' Certified Responsible Soya standard's requirements. Combined these make sure CRS-soya is produced with respect for the environment and its social setting, on- and off-farm.

4. The farmer is aware of local laws and has the necessary permits proving that he complies with the National and local laws.

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<sup>1</sup> Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the making available on the Union market as well as export from the Union of certain commodities and products associated with deforestation and forest degradation

5. International laws and standards on the rights of indigenous people and the tenure rights of local communities need to be respected.

### 3. Labor conditions

Producers shall take the responsibility to provide safe and fair labor conditions to all the workers involved in the production. The labor conditions' requirements in Cefetra's CRS standard are extensive and have proven to improve the lives of people working on farms.

6. All workers (including temporary workers), sharecroppers, contractors and subcontractors have a contract, with a (minimum) salary as defined in the national law, or the industry, that is paid monthly. In case a worker is paid per result, a normal 8-hour working day is in line with the national or industry wage. Organizations are recommended to evaluate and consider paying living wages in line with regional requirements.
7. All workers and sharecroppers have the right to perform collective bargaining and to establish and / or join an organization of choice.
8. Children under 15 (or higher age as established in national law) do not carry out productive work. Young workers (15–18) participating in farming activities must be under the supervision of an adult employee, and their work does not include hazardous tasks that jeopardize their health or welfare, including those that interfere with their education.
9. Labor laws, union agreements or direct contracts of employment detailing payments and conditions of employment (e.g., working hours (on average 48 hours/week), deductions, overtime (12 hours/week), sickness, holiday entitlement, maternity leave, reasons for dismissal, period of notice, etc) are available in the languages understood by the workers or explained carefully to them by a manager or supervisor.
10. Overtime in excess of 12 hours per week is only allowed if it happened in extraordinary, limited periods where there are time constraints or risks of economic loss and where conditions regarding overtime in excess of 12 hours per week have been agreed between workers and management.
11. Adequate and appropriate procedures, training and comprehensible instructions on fundamental rights at work, health and safety and any necessary guidance or supervision are provided to all workers. Relevant health and safety risks are identified and appropriate measures are taken(e.g. additional fire prevention control measures)
12. Producers make sure their workers receive regular training on good agricultural practices and sustainable production.
13. Potentially hazardous tasks are only carried out by capable and competent people, who received training and demonstrate awareness and understanding about performing those tasks safely.
14. Adequate and appropriate protective equipment and clothing is provided and used in all potentially hazardous operations.
15. Producers have to warn their employees when they do not apply (personal) safety equipment.
16. In case of populated areas, the necessary precautions are taken to avoid people entering into recently sprayed areas.
17. The effective functioning of labor organizations is not impeded. Representatives or any of the workers are not subject to any kind of discrimination (equal remuneration for work of equal value, equal access to training and benefits and equal opportunities for promotion and for filling all available positions) and have access to their members in the workplace on request.
18. Deductions from wages for disciplinary purposes are not made, unless legally permitted. Wages and benefits are detailed and clear to workers, and workers are paid in a manner convenient to them.

Wages paid are recorded by the employer.

19. No workers of any type are required to lodge their identity papers with anyone and no part of their salary, benefits or property is retained, by the owner or any 3rd party, unless permitted by law.
20. Accident and emergency procedures exist and instructions are clearly understood by all workers. In case of accidents or illness, access to first aid and medical assistance is provided without delay.
21. Workers are not subject to corporal punishment, mental or physical oppression or coercion, verbal or physical abuse, sexual harassment or any kind of intimidation.
22. No forced, compulsory, bonded, trafficked or otherwise involuntary labor is used at any stage of production.
23. A safe and healthy workplace is provided to all workers, this includes at least access to safe drinking water, basic sanitary facilities and protective equipment.
24. If employees live on the farm, they have access to affordable and adequate housing, food and potable water. If charges are made for these, such charges are in accordance with market conditions.
25. Keep records of the working hours at least once a week.
26. Employment opportunities are made known locally.

#### 4. Land rights

Producers can demonstrate their legal rights for the land used to cultivate products. With the CRS standard no farm is allowed to have unresolved land use claims between the farm and other groups, like for example indigenous groups. Only if both parties have agreed a farm can use the applicable land.

25. Geolocation data of the lands (latitudes & longitudes) will be registered during the audit and at registration of the farm.
26. All the land is owned or rented (with contract) by the farmer.
27. There is no acquisition of land where there is an unresolved land use claim (for this land) by traditional land users under litigation, without the agreement of both parties. There should be proof that the agreement was reached by both parties.

#### 5. Environmental responsibility

Producers shall take measures to limit potential negative impacts on the land used for *soya/corn* production and on the biodiversity in the direct surroundings of the production site. This includes zero-deforestation and zero conversion of important natural landscapes, like, but not limited to the Amazon and Cerrado in Brazil.

27. For land within the Amazon Biome: The farmer must respect the Soy Moratorium which states that no land can be converted into farmland after July 24th 2006.  
For land outside the Amazon Biome: All land used by the farmer must be converted into farmland prior to May 2009.
28. For land within the Amazon Biome: In case of disputed right to land usage of land converted after July 24th 2006, a comprehensive participatory and documented community rights assessment is carried out.  
For land outside the Amazon Biome: In case of disputed right to land usage of land converted after May 2009, a comprehensive participatory and documented community rights assessment is carried out.
29. This standard is a zero conversion/deforestation standard. This means that besides indicator 27 and 28, other areas of natural vegetation (e.g. around water bodies (riparian vegetation and flood plains), wetlands and areas sensitive to erosion (steep slopes and hills) must be maintained or restored. This

is applicable when alteration took place after June 24th 2006 for land within the Amazon Biome and after May 2009 for land outside the Amazon Biome.

30. Farms should maintain and safeguard native vegetation on their farm in order to protect and provide habitat for native species. There is a map of the farm which shows the native vegetation and there is a plan to protect and recover native vegetation.
31. There is documented evidence that the affected communities are compensated subject to their free, prior, informed and document consent in case of land converted after 24 July 2006.
32. In case new infrastructures were established after the date of certification, a social and environmental assessment is carried out in a comprehensive and transparent way by a person/company who is adequately trained and experienced, prior to the establishment of the new infrastructure.
33. Areas that are assigned as legal reserve, conservation area or otherwise protected by law have to be protected and recovered if any alteration has taken place. Producers are not allowed operations in or impacting UNESCO World Heritage sites (both natural and cultural).
34. There is no burning on any part of the property of crop residues, waste, or as part of vegetation clearance, except under one of the following conditions:
  - a) Where there is a legal obligation to burn as a sanitary measure;
  - b) Where it is used for generation of energy including charcoal production and for drying crops;
  - c) Where only small-caliber residual vegetation from land clearing remains after all useable material has been removed for other uses.
35. There are facilities to prevent spills of oil and other pollutants.
36. Knowledge of techniques to control soil erosion & compaction is demonstrated and these techniques are implemented.
37. Total direct fossil fuel use over time is recorded, and its volume per hectare and per unit of product for all activities related to soy production/ (and if certified: also for corn production is monitored. Farmers reduce the use of fossil fuels, for instance by implementing precision agriculture techniques, controlled traffic farming, or lighter machinery.

## 6. Social responsibility

38. A telephone number/email address is published on the website or entrance of the farms, where to send in complaints, if any. In case there are complaints, farmers handle them in a structured way.
39. There is a documented complaint file available, and complaints are dealt with in a published period.

## 7. Good Agricultural Practices (GAP)

40. Used machinery is kept in a good condition and is clean, during the growing phase, harvest, transport, storage and delivery. These machines may not leak and/or show loose (glass) parts. If there is direct contact between machinery oil and the product, then food-grade oil must be used.
41. All purchased seeds must come from known legal quality sources. Self-propagated seeds may be used for soy, provided appropriate seed production norms are followed and legal requirements regarding intellectual property rights are met.
  - If GM soy/corn is sown, then the advice from the breeder should be followed (e.g.) regarding to the refuge area.
42. Producers are not allowed to introduce or use invasive species (plants or animals) in the management unit.
43. Work according to advice (organic/not organic) through analyses from soil sampling.
44. Appropriate monitoring, including soil organic matter content, is in place.
45. No use of GFT compost or other similar soil for improvements on parcels unless analyses show that



there is no pollution with glass and other harmful pollutions (classification: "very clean").

46. The application of agrochemicals (crop protection and fertilizers) is documented and all handling, storage, collection and disposal of chemical waste and empty containers, is monitored. Use, storage and waste disposal are in line with the professional recommendations.
47. Storage of manure and disposal of fuel, batteries, tires, lubricants, sewage and other waste is done in accordance with national and local legislation. Measures are taken to reduce or recycle waste as much as possible.
48. Storage manure/fertilizer separate from chemicals.
49. No illegal varieties of manure are used.
50. Storage of chemicals according with national and local legislation.
51. Use a well-adjusted, clean and good-working sprayer (sprayer inspection form and spraying license).
52. Aerial application of pesticides is carried out in such a way that it does not have an impact on populated areas. All aerial application is preceded by advance notification to residents within 500m of the planned application.
53. There is no aerial application of pesticides in WHO Class Ia, Ib and II within 500m of populated areas or water bodies.
54. There is no application of pesticides within 30m of any populated areas or water bodies.
55. Do not use more chemicals than listed on the product label.
56. Use official allowed chemicals only.
57. No use of agrochemicals listed in the Stockholm and Rotterdam Conventions.
58. Work according to safety terms of the chemicals.
59. Keep records (at least once a week) of all fertilizers and agrochemicals used (including products purchased and applied, quantity, dates, number/name of the field where the fertilizers/agrochemicals were applied, names of person that carried out the preparation and application, application equipment used, harvest date for safety terms.
60. There is information about requirements for the use of biological control agents.
61. Use of phytosanitary products follows legal requirements (or professional recommendations) and includes rotation of active ingredients to prevent resistance.
62. Measures are taken to prevent interference in neighboring areas.
63. Any direct evidence of localized contamination of ground or surface water is reported to, and monitored in collaboration with, local authorities.
64. No hunting of rare, threatened, or endangered species takes place on the property.
65. When irrigation is used, the producer shall comply with relevant legislation, and measures are taken to minimize water use. There is monitoring, appropriate for the usage of water irrigation documented (Time, date, amount of irrigation, and quality of water used).
66. Agrochemicals shall be applied using methods that minimize harm to human health, wildlife and insects, plant biodiversity, and water and air quality. An integrated crop management plan is implemented on the farm.
67. Good agriculture practices are implemented to minimize diffuse and localized impacts on surface and ground water quality from chemical residues, fertilizers, and erosion or other sources. Farmers enhance the soil by applying crop rotation (minimum of 2 crops). - Related to corn production (if applicable):
68. When planting BT corn, producers must adhere to the breeder's guidance regarding the proportion of the field that should remain as refuges (non-BT blocks) to mitigate the risk of resistance pressure.
69. Harvest machinery shall be cleaned prior to transportation (prior to entry and downstream) to help weed and pest control.

70. Providing proof of implementing fire prevention and control measures, along with adopting best practices for corn harvesting to minimize the fire risk.
71. When implementing pest management practices, the producer should also consider the use of native predators and natural enemies of pests. Implementing practices for the rational use of chemical pesticides.
72. The CRS certification standard will be reviewed and updated over periods of less than 5 years. The most up-to-date version of the standard is always available for consultation.
73. Requirements for use of the CRS logo for certificate holders, whether individuals or organizations, must possess a valid certificate of conformity with the CRS Standard issued by Control Union Certifications. To ensure maximum effectiveness and distinctiveness, the CRS logo must maintain consistency in color, shape, and typestyle. Correct application of CRS logos is essential to preserve visual impact and overall integrity without compromising its distinctiveness. Therefore, the CRS logo should not undergo modification or representation in any way other than as prescribed. In exceptional circumstances, organizations must seek approval from their Certification body for any variation to the label designs before final printing and label use.

The CRS logo must remain unaltered in all materials, including but not limited to promotional materials, product packaging, and authorized web pages. CRS logo users are strictly prohibited from modifying the logo in any way.

- (1) Users must not distort, stretch, or manipulate the CRS logo.
  - (2) The logo must not be displayed in a size so small that any design feature is lost, and it should appear in the same spatial relation.
  - (3) The typeface of the CRS logo must not be changed.
  - (4) Users must not create a shape around or confine the CRS logo.
  - (5) The logo should not be used at an angle or with low resolution or jagged edges. Reproducing the logo too small is not allowed, as it may cause it to become illegible or blurry.
  - (6) Users must not encumber or invade the CRS logo in any way, nor add any words or graphics to the existing logos.
  - (7) Placing the CRS logo on a visually competitive background, such as incorporating photography, texts, illustrations, or graphics across any part of CRS trademarks, is not allowed.
74. The CRS certification standard will be reviewed and updated over periods of less than 5 years. The most up-to-date version of the standard is always available for consultation.



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