



## 1<sup>ST</sup> STEERING GROUP MEETING MOU PARTNERS ON RESPONSIBLE SOY

**São Paulo, 11 April 2017** – In January 2017, Aprosoja-MT, ABIOVE, FEDIOL, FEFAC and IDH signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to stimulate the production and trade of Brazilian responsible soy. As a follow-up to this agreement, a 1<sup>st</sup> steering group meeting with approximately 20 people was held in São Paulo on 6 and 7 April 2017 to discuss and evaluate individual actions and projects that can feed into a joint strategic working plan for the Brazilian and European soy supply chain partners.

The partners updated each other on their respective initiatives since the signing of the MoU. Aprosoja briefed the partners on the progress made on Soja Plus, a rural property management programme for soy farmers taking into account financial, social and environmental elements. They raised attention to “Geocloud”, a system that allows tracking technical visits to farmers in real-time and optimises the report sharing with farmers. Another development is the project “Referência”, which focusses on the financial management of properties and facilitates the integration of the Soja Plus programme. Aprosoja highlighted the development of a pilot project in Mato Grosso, with financial and technical support from IDH, that aims to incentivise the recuperation of degraded land by farmers.

ABIOVE emphasised its ambition to implement the Soja Plus programme in the states of Piauí, Maranhão and Goiás as well as further expand the coverage in Minas Gerais and Bahia. They reminded the partners that more than 50% of deforestation in the Legal Amazon takes place on property owned by the government and cannot be tackled by the private sector.

IDH highlighted its ambition to work this year on the stimulation of supply chain systems that facilitate the connection between sustainable production and its respective market demand. A supply chain model that allows capturing the value generated by the Soja Plus programme is an example. They informed the partners about the \$400 million investment by the World Economic Forum to stop illegal deforestation in tropical areas, facilitate reforestation and boost farming. IDH also marked the importance of PCI (*Produzir, Conservar e Incluir* – Produce, Conserve & Include), a development strategy in the fight against climate change to attract investments to the state of Mato Grosso to pool and integrate the different parties involved to obtain investments and tools to reach consolidated objectives as regards good agricultural practices.

FEFAC informed the partners that it wants to increase the responsible production of raw materials used in animal feed. They also highlighted the progress being made on the preparation of the benchmarking of the Soja Plus programme against the FEFAC Soy Sourcing Guidelines, which would be essential for its recognition as a responsible soy programme to the EU feed industry. FEDIOL stated the importance of informing European institutions about the progress made in environmental governance in Brazil in both the public and private sector, especially in the context of the new Forest Code. The NGO Earth Innovation Institute contributed to the meeting with information about payment initiatives for environmental services to reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, such as the REDD, and its legal aspects. The consultant and lawyer Ludovino Lopes gave a presentation about existing environmental laws in Brazil and the challenges that need to be overcome. The Brazilian soy value chain sees the involvement of European users of soy in developing tools for financial compensation for environmental services and the financing of the Soja Plus programme as a very important factor.

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## Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) – January 2017

*The MoU signed in January 2017 represents a direct, formal working relation between Brazilian soy producers and key European soy purchasers, sharing a common vision and action plan fostering responsible soy production in Brazil and its use in Europe. The private sector agreement is supported by IDH, who supports the objectives of the Brazil Forest Code, through the preservation of natural habitats and the promotion of good agricultural practices on soy farms.*

**APROSOJA** – The Mato Grosso soy and Corn Grower Association is an entity that congregates more than 5,000 farmers. Created in 2005, it is a third sector entity focused on programmes and initiatives that guarantee legal security for agricultural activities and that increase the sustainability of soybean production in the state. Currently, Aprosoja represents 9,396,349 hectares of area planted with soybeans and a production of 30,469,579 tons, totalling 9.02% of the world's soybean production. The 2016/17 harvest data were collected by the Instituto Mato-Grossense de Economia Agropecuária (Imea). [www.aprosoja.com.br](http://www.aprosoja.com.br)

**ABIOVE** – The Brazilian Oilseed Processors Association brings together 13 soybean processors and biodiesel producers, responsible for 60% of the processed and exported oilseeds. Soy Complex (including beans, meal and oil) topped the list of Brazilian exports in 2015, with a \$28 billion inflow. <http://www.abiove.org.br/>

**FEDIOL** – The EU vegetable oil and protein meal industry association, represents the interests of the European oilseed crushers, vegetable oil refiners and bottlers. FEDIOL members are 12 national associations and associated company members in 5 other EU countries. With about 180 facilities in Europe, the sector provides 20,000 direct employments. Its members process approximately 55 million tonnes of basic products a year, both of EU origin and imported from third country markets. The sector processes notably rapeseed, sunflower seed, soybeans and linseed into oils and meals for food, feed, technical and energy uses essentially on the European market. [www.fediol.eu](http://www.fediol.eu)

**FEFAC** – The European Feed Manufacturers' Federation, represents 24 national Associations in 23 EU Member States as well as Associations in Switzerland, Turkey, Serbia, Russia and Norway with observer/associate member status. The European compound feed industry employs over 100,000 persons on app. 3,500 production sites often in rural areas, which offer few employment opportunities. [www.fefac.eu](http://www.fefac.eu)

**IDH** – The Sustainable Trade Initiative (IDH) is a non-profit organization that brings together front-running companies, civil society organizations and governments in public private partnerships to transform markets towards more environmentally and socially sustainable production, trade and consumption. IDH operates globally in 11 commodity sectors and 11 landscapes in over 40 countries. Together with over 500 partners, IDH develops, drives, co-finances and evaluates innovative business models that have the potential to drive sustainability from niche to norm [www.idhsustainabletrade.com](http://www.idhsustainabletrade.com).

### Notes to editor

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