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The implementation of the Brazil Forest Code marks a new era in environmental protection of native habitat – Private-public partnerships play key role in achieving common targets

On 25 March 2015 FEFAC and FEDIOL held the 4th joint EU stakeholder workshop on responsible soy, which welcomed over 60 participants. The main objective of the workshop was to inform on the current situation concerning responsible soy production in Brazil.

Expert speakers from Brazilian competent environmental authorities and key soy value chain partners (ABIOVE, APROSOJA) and NGOs (TNC) provided delegates with an overview on the work progress linked to the implementation of the official farm registration system (CAR), a powerful tool to enhance enforcement of the environmental protection measures while providing legal certainty to farmers. The private-public partnership agreements display a clear ambition to foster adoption of good agricultural and chain management practices as key part of the "new" soy moratorium transition agreement.

In the 2nd part of the workshop, participants discussed the driving factors of EU demand for responsible soy in order to facilitate mainstream market supply. FEFAC and FEDIOL reiterated their commitment to support a two-tier approach for facilitating mainstream market transformation towards responsible soy in Europe to ensure strategic supply of soy products.

Kevin Brassington, President of FEDIOL: "We welcome the substantial work progress achieved in Brazil concerning the implementation of the new Brazil Forest Code. The initiatives and commitments made by the soy value chain partners with the New Soy Agenda and with the Soja Plus programme are aimed at helping soy farmers to achieve full compliance with the new Farm registration system (CAR). For FEDIOL, this is a positive step towards enhanced sustainability of the Brazil soy value chain, our key supplier."

Ruud Tijssens, President of FEFAC: "We take the political and market request in the EU for ensuring the supply of responsibly produced soybean meal for feed use very seriously. As FEFAC we have a longstanding commitment to support responsible soy value chain initiatives in all major producing countries. Our new FEFAC draft sourcing guidelines for responsible soy, open for public consultation, and the planned ITC benchmarking system are designed to facilitate mainstream market supply".

Notes to the editor:

- 1. FEFAC, the European Compound 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 110,000 persons on approximately 4,000 production sites. These are often located in rural areas that offer few employment opportunities.
- 2. FEDIOL, the EU vegetable oil and proteinmeal industry association, represents the interests of the European seed and bean crushers, meal producers, vegetable oils producers, refiners and bottlers. FEDIOL's members are 12 national associations and associated company members in 5 other EU countries. With about 150 facilities in Europe the sector provides 20.000 direct employments. Its members process approximately 36 million tonnes of basic products a year, both of EU origin and imported from third country markets.
- 3. Farm animals in the EU-28 consume an estimated 480 million tonnes of feed every year, of which about 30% is produced by the compound feed manufacturers. The turnover of the European compound feed industry in 2014 is estimated at €50 billion.
- 4. For more information, see our website (www.fefac.eu) or please contact Alexander Döring, Secretary General, on tel. +32-2-285.00.50, Fax +32-2-230.57.22, e-mail: fefac@fefac.eu or FEDIOL website (www.fediol.eu) or please contact Nathalie Lecocq, Director General, on tel. +32 2 771 53 30, Fax +32 2 771 38 17, email: fediol@fediol.eu.