EUROPEAN TASK FORCE

Terms of Reference

1. Introduction

The RTRS is a multi-stakeholder initiative, with a mission to ensure that current and future soybean is produced in a responsible manner - to reduce social and environmental impacts while maintaining or improving the economic status for the producers. It provides stakeholders – producers, civil society, trade, industry and finance – with the opportunity to jointly develop global solutions leading to responsible soy production.

Regional or national level Task Forces are being established to help RTRS to achieve its global objectives locally.

RTRS certified soy is available on the market. Market uptake needs to be demonstrated to incentivize producers to expand certification. Different sectors will need different strategies, to reflect differences in supply chain and end use. For direct use in food, there is the opportunity for added value in communications. For indirect use, e.g. in animal feed, demand is driven by risk mitigation and there is the need for large volumes of material, certified to a single standard, at low cost margin.

2. Aims & Objectives

The aim of the taskforce is to contribute to linking increased demand and supply of RTRS certified soy and, in the long term, move the mainstream market towards RTRS adoption.

Key Objectives:

- Increase market uptake of existing RTRS certified soy. Map market demand for certified soy over a 5 years horizon. Indicators: % of certificates sold; volume of physical certified soy sold.

- Understand the origin. Support key soy users in mapping their supply sheds back to nearest place name origin - this will be the crusher & established supply shed around the crusher. This must be possible 1 up 1 down in the value chain – because of food safety. Share aggregated supply sheds – visually e.g. google map – this shows the demand & opportunities for co-operation. The involvement of key traders will be essential for this objective, especially for soy meal.

- Partner with Task Force Brazil – and other regional/national task forces as they come on stream - to create action on the ground leading to conversion of farmers to RTRS.

3. Scope of Activities

- Soy in Feed
- Soy in Food

4. Task Force Composition

- RTRS members of the 3 constituencies (Industry Trade & Finance, Civil Society and Producers present in the region) as well as an RTRS Representative.

- Observers, who are not yet RTRS members, may be invited to participate to provide specific experience and expertise.

5. Roles
• Members of the task force commit to work constructively with each other in order to achieve the objectives of the group and develop commonly acceptable solutions to issues addressed. They will respect the views of other members, the right of each member to share their expertise and opinions with the group, and the authority of the coordinator chairing the meetings.

• Members are expected to consult on the work and information needs of the task force with other institutions, from their own constituencies, or any others, that are not part of this task force.

• Members commit to participate actively in the task force. Members should participate in calls, written communication and meetings of the work of the task force and respect the deadlines proposed by the task force coordinator.

• Members participate on a voluntary basis. Therefore the RTRS does not compensate their participation in task forces.

• Members will appoint a Task Force Coordinator, who will report back to the Executive Board on strategic issues. The Task Force Coordinator will chair meetings and is responsible for liaison with the Executive Board. He/she will organize, prepare and moderate the calls of the task force.

• The RTRS Representative will facilitate task force activities, liaise with the Executive Director / Secretariat on operational issues and input to directing the activities of RTRS appointed communications agency in Europe. He/she will prepare the minutes and coordinate the content of any material developed by the task force, including reports and recommendations for the Executive Board of the RTRS.

6. Functioning

• The primary means of communication will be conference calls / webex, email and at least one physical meeting per year.

• Decisions of the task force will be considered as recommendations to the Executive Board for approval. If task force decision-making process results in delaying the execution of an issue of vital importance for RTRS strategy, the Executive Board has the right to reach a decision.

• The task force should make decisions by consensus (i.e. absence of sustained objection).

• Task force members should contribute on the basis of their expert opinion and in the interest of RTRS vision, mission and objectives.

7. Join the European Task Force

• The RTRS invites all interested parties wishing and eligible to participate to join the European Task Force. If you are interested in participating please send an email to the RTRS Representative: lieven.callewaert@responsiblesoy.org

• Members of the task force are expected to have read and agree to these Terms of Reference.