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FEDIOL releases its monitoring of responsible soy sourcing for 2021

Brussels, 3 November 2022 – In 2021, FEDIOL companies sourced 42% of the soybeans they procured, as verified or certified responsible. The amount of soybean products companies could sell as responsible dropped to 7%, down from the 14% reached in 2020, increasing hence the gap between sustainable volumes bought and sold to 35 percentage points.

It is the second year FEDIOL releases its monitoring of responsible soybean data collected from participating member companies. The exercise is based on the voluntary reporting of member companies. It assesses the volumes of soybeans bought that are compliant with FEFAC Soy Sourcing Guidelines (SSGs) and it captures the products thereof sold as responsible soybean meal or soybean oil in the EU by FEDIOL's member companies.

According to the survey, FEDIOL companies purchased 14,366,000 tons of soybeans which is slightly below the 2021 figures and the share of soybeans sourced as responsible was, with 42%, in the range of the 2020 share. The amount of FEFAC SSGs' compliant soy product that FEDIOL companies were able to sell as verified or certified, however, dropped to 7%, which increased the gap between responsible soybeans bought and sold after processing to 35% points. This confirmed the difficulty FEDIOL companies encounter, to sell as verified or certified responsible the amounts of soybeans they purchase with a sustainability premium.

FEDIOL also assessed the geographical sourcing of soybeans from its member companies and the collection of their aggregated volumes of soybeans processed in the EU. Soybeans can be sourced from areas where the risk of deforestation is higher or rather lower. FEDIOL companies sourced 21% of soybeans from regions with a risk of deforestation. In this case, they have developed a collective protocol to engage with their indirect suppliers to increase their capacity to monitor own suppliers. They are engaged in landscape interventions involving financial incentives to support farmers toward sustainable land-use practices and forest protection.

FEDIOL represents the interests of the European vegetable oil and protein meal industry. With over 180 facilities in Europe, the sector provides over 20.000 direct employments. Our members process approximately 55 million tonnes of basic products a year for the food and non-food markets. Oilseed crushing produces vegetable oils and protein meals as co-products. While vegetable oils are used for food and technical uses (pharmaceuticals, paints, detergents, biodiesel, etc.), protein meals are used to meet the increasing global demand for meat and protein. For further information, please contact Nathalie Lecocq, FEDIOL Director General, fediol@fediol.eu