Sustainable Farming Assurance Programme- Non Conversion®

Version 6.1, FEFAC SSG 2021 Compliant

Last updated June 2021

1. Introduction

The Sustainable Farming Assurance Programme (SFAP) is an international programme for the verification of sustainable practices at the farm level. The programme is applicable for all arable crops that are used in feed production (e.g. soy, maize, barley, wheat).

The main characteristics of the programme are:

- Independent programme, open for all farmers and farmer groups irrespective of their supply chain partners
- Created and managed in close cooperation with farmers
- Applicable to a broad range of (arable) crops
- Global applicability
- Third party certification
- Robust, cost-efficient verification module
- Strong non-conversion module.

SFAP offers an additional service of calculating the CO_2 footprint for a specific SFAP-farmer group. This CO_2 Foot printing methodology results in a verified CO_2 statement. This method is discussed in a separate document.

2. Ownership

The programme is owned by ProAgros. The first version of the SFAP-standard was created in 2017. Initially farmers were certified against the basic module of the standard, currently all farmer groups are certified against the non-conversion module.

The programme is revised every two years or more often if necessary to guarantee alignment with international developments and global priorities in responsible agricultural production. The programme has been benchmarked by ITC against the FEFAC Soy Sourcing Guidelines 2021.

3. The criteria

SFAP includes 54 criteria for responsible agricultural production of which 43 are major and 11 are minor criteria.

The 54 criteria are clustered under four principles:

1. Legal compliance and good business practice,
2. Respect of human rights and safeguarding worker safety,
3. Good Agricultural Practices and Environmental protection
4. Safeguarding community relations.

All 43 criteria with the description ***major*** must be met before certification can be granted. 3 of the 11 criteria with the description ***minor*** must be met before certification can be granted. All farmers are free to decide with which of the 3 minors they wish to comply.

1. Legal compliance & protection of property rights

Compliance to local and national legislation is the fundamental first step to responsible practices. Therefore, farmers must demonstrate that they are aware of and comply with all applicable legislation. Respecting legislation also means that property rights are secured and respected.

1.1 Legal compliance

1.1.1	Farmers demonstrate awareness of all applicable laws and comply with all applicable local, national and international legislation.	Major
1.1.2	Any direct evidence of localized contamination of ground or surface water is reported to, and monitored in collaboration with local authorities.	Major
1.1.3	The farmer will act in according to legislation and established procedures to prevent and stop the spread of invasive species and water contamination.	Major
1.1.4	Farmers will execute and document a baseline impact assessment into all key-indicators on the farm (e.g. agrochemical use, fertilizer use, fossil fuel use, soil statistics, water use, accident rate) and prepare a monitoring plan to monitor and improve these indicators over time.	Major

1.2 Respect of water and land rights

1.2.1	Farmers can prove legal ownership of the land or the presence of formal land use rights (e.g. rental or lease agreement, court order confirming ownership etc.).	Major
1.2.2	In case of disputed land rights, a comprehensive, participatory and documented community rights assessment is carried out and the recommendations from the assessment are being followed. There is no conversion of land where there is an unresolved land use claim by traditional land users under litigation, without the agreement of both parties.	Major
1.2.3	In case land is acquired from local communities, they are always informed, involved and compensated based on their free, prior, informed consent and compensated adequately.	Major
1.2.4	Farmers have and can prove legal ownership of water rights or formal permission to use water for irrigation.	Major
1.2.5	Farmers are required to respect the rights, customs and culture of indigenous peoples as defined in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (2007) and ILO Conventions 169.	Major

2. Respect of human rights and safeguarding worker safety

Farmers make sure their workers are treated with respect and care, that workers have a safe and healthy work environment and that they are free to join or form organisations to represent their interests.

2.1 All human rights as described in the 8 fundamental ILO regulations are respected

2.1.1	All measures and requirements as described in the eight fundamental ILO regulations[1] are respected.	Major
2.1.2	There is no engagement in child labour, forced labour, discrimination or any form of coercion, intimidation or harassment. Young workers (15-18) must not undertake	Major

[1] ● Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organise Convention, 1948 (No. 87) ● Right to Organise and Collective Bargaining Convention,1949 (No. 98) ● Forced Labour Convention, 1930 (No. 29) ● Abolition of Forced Labour Convention, 1957 (No. 105) ● Minimum Age Convention, 1973 (No. 138) ● Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No. 182) ● Equal Remuneration Convention, 1951 (No. 100) ● Discrimination (Employment and Occupation) Convention, 1958 (No. 111)

	hazardous work that jeopardizes their health and welfare. Employees with equal capacities and experience are paid and treated equally.	
2.1.3	All workers have the right to join or form an organization of their choice and be engaged in collective bargaining. The effective functioning of these organizations is not impeded and representatives of these organisations are not hindered in doing their job effectively and safely.	Major
2.1.4	Workers are paid in accordance with legal or sector requirements and the workweek does not exceed 48 hours (over time excluded). Overtime is always voluntary, paid in accordance with legal or sector agreement and does not exceed 12 hours per week. Deductions from wages for disciplinary purposes are not made, unless legally permitted. All workers have the right of one day off per week.	Major
2.1.5	No workers can be obliged to hand in their identity papers or other personal documents.	Major
2.1.6	All workers have a legally binding, written contract in a language they can understand.	Major
2.1.7	All hours, payments and overwork need to be registered in case the farmer employs more than 20 workers. If the farmer employs less than 20 workers, only over time needs to be registered.	Major
2.1.8	All legal requirements and sector agreements in the area of maternity leave are respected.	Major

2.2 The safety and health of farm workers is guaranteed

2.2.1	Health and safety risks on the farm are identified and communicated to all workers. All workers receive training -and frequent updates of the trainings- about health and safety on the farm. There are signs to warn workers for potentially dangerous situations and/or to indicate that the use of protective clothing is required. Accident and emergency procedures exist and instructions are clearly understood by all workers.	Major
2.2.2	There are first aid kits present near all workplaces. In case of an accident medical assistance is provided without delay.	Major
2.2.3	Workers receive adequate protective clothing and protective equipment and are obliged to use those.	Major
2.2.4	All workers have access to potable water, healthy nutrition and clean sanitary facilities.	Major
2.2.5	In case workers live on the farm, their houses are clean, safe and adequately equipped.	Major

2.2.6	There is a system of warnings and legally permitted sanctions for those who don't use protective clothing or follow the safety and health procedures.	Minor
2.2.7	Producers make sure there is regular maintenance of machinery, equipment and materials in order to ensure safe functioning of these devices.	Minor
2.2.8	Producers make sure their workers receive regular training on safety, health, good agricultural practices and sustainable soy production.	Minor

3. Good Agricultural Practice and Environmental protection

Good agricultural practices are those practices that allow the farmer to obtain high yields today, whilst respecting the yields of the future by adequately managing soil and water quality and biodiversity. Farmer also take adequate measures to protect the environment.

3.1 No conversion of high-value areas between 2009 and 2016. After 2016 no conversion of natural lands at all.

3.1.1	In case SFAP certified farmers have brought new agricultural lands in production before 1 January 2009, the lands have been cleared/converted in line with national legislation	Major

	and biodiversity protection treaties.	
3.1.2	High Conservation Value Area's have not been cleared, converted and/or bought by farmers certified under the SFAP protocol to use for agricultural production from 1 January 2009 - 1 June 2016.	Major
3.1.3	No agricultural expansion can take place on the following natural ecosystems after 1 January 2016[2]: a) Natural forests b) Native grasslands c) Wetlands d) Peatlands e) Savannas f) Steep slopes g) Riparian areas h) Cerrado i) Priaries	Major
3.1.4	Areas of natural vegetation around water bodies and on steep slopes and hills and other sensitive parts of the ecosystem need to be maintained or restored.	Major
3.1.5	Farmers have a map of the farm where native vegetation is indicated. Important on-farm biodiversity should be protected through the preservation of native vegetation. When there are rare, threatened or endangered wildlife species on the farm, they should be protected.	Major

The method used to assure compliance to the non-conversion criteria can be found in Annex 1

3.2 Good Agricultural Practices are applied

3.2.1	Farmers are aware that their soils are their most important asset and make sure they implement measures to protect the soils from contamination, depletion, compaction and erosion by implementing crop rotation (minimum 2 crops), and other measures such as non-tillage, terraces, precision farming etc.	Major
3.2.2	Farmers make sure the ground and surface water surrounding their farm and farmlands is not contaminated nor depleted. When contamination or depletion is found that can be traced back to the farm activities, measures are taken to solve the situation.	Major
3.2.3	Farmers who use irrigation do so in accordance with applicable legislation, monitor water use and implement practices to minimise water use.	Major
3.2.4	Agrochemicals shall be applied using methods that minimize harm to human health, wildlife, plant biodiversity, and water and air quality. Farmers will not use the chemicals listed in the Rotterdam and Stockholm Convention. All chemicals are used in accordance with legal requirements and professional recommendations to prevent drift, pest resistance and negative environmental and health effects. All storage, use and disposal of agrochemicals and empty containers is in line with legal requirements and good practices. All applications are recorded. People that apply agrochemicals received training about doing so in a safe and responsible manner.	Major
3.2.5	Agrochemicals cannot be applied within 30 meter of water bodies or populated areas and precautionary measures have to be taken to avoid people entering into recently	Major

[2] The verifying third party controls compliance with the non-conversion criteria by comparing old (2016) and new satellite images. Currently, SFAP's farmer base is mainly located in the Cerrado in Brazil and therefore the PRODES-Cerrado satellite images are used to make sure no natural vegetation is converted on certified farms. The satellite maps of all certified farms in the group are stored by the verifying third party and are available upon request by interested, relevant actors.

	sprayed areas.	
3.2.6	When aerial application of pesticides is applied, all applications have to be announced to people in the surrounding area (within 500 meter). Within 500 meters of populated areas and water bodies no chemicals from the WHO class 1a, 1b and 2 can be applied.	Major
3.2.7	Farmers follow the labels when applying phytosanitary products. Farmers make sure to rotate the active ingredients to prevent resistance.	Major
3.2.8	Farmers implement precision farming techniques and work according to the principles of Integrated Crop Management, this includes adequate and continuous monitoring of crop health, use of non-chemical and chemical control means and measures to improve crop resilience.	Major

3.2.9	Farmers improve their soils with the use of cover crops and or intercropping practices.	Minor
3.2.10	Soil quality is assessed regularly to prove that the soil quality is constant or improving.	Minor
3.2.11	Farmers monitor the water quality. The quantity of water consumed is analysed and registered to ensure sustainable behaviour.	Minor
3.2.12	Farmers make sure their practices (e.g. water extraction) do not impact sensitive wetlands or swamps in the vicinity of their operation.	Minor
3.2.13	Appropriate measures are implemented to allow for coexistence of different production systems.	Minor
3.2.14	A plan for Integrated Crop Management is made and implemented which includes monitoring of crop health, use of control means and measures to improve crop resilience. The plan includes targets on reducing the use of chemicals over time.	Minor
3.2.15	There is no use of the PAN International List of Highly Hazardous Pesticides WHO 1A, 1B and 2 chemicals.	Minor
3.2.16	Farmers actively work on carbon sequestration in the soil, for instance by applying non-tillage, planting of cover crops or applying intercropping practices.	Minor

3.3 The environmental impact of the farms activities is minimized

3.3.1	Farmers make sure to manage, treat, store and dispose all waste (solid and non-solid, hazardous and non-hazardous, e.g. tires, oil, empty agrochemical containers, lubricants etc.) in accordance with legal requirements and good practices. Measures are taken to prevent run-off of agrochemicals, oils, mineral and organic substances.	Major
3.3.2	Wastewater is collected and treated in accordance with legal requirements.	Major
3.3.3	It is not allowed to burn waste or crop rests or to use fire to clear the land unless under specific circumstances described in the law (e.g. phytosanitary measures).	Major
3.3.4	Where possible, materials are re-used or recycled.	Major
3.3.5	Use of fossil fuels is closely monitored and measures are taken to use as little fossil fuels as possible for instance via self-propelled machinery or fixed riding paths.	Major

4. Safeguarding community relations

4.1 Communication with local communities is enabled and complaints are dealt with adequately

4.1.1	Complaints and grievances from workers, neighbors, local communities and traditional land users are dealt with in an appropriate manner. Documented evidence of complaints and grievances received is maintained.	Major
4.1.2	In case a relevant competent authority requires the farmer to react to a complaint or grievance in a certain way, the farmer will do so in a timely manner.	Major
4.1.3	The complaint mechanism (e.g. written complaint form, being accessible via email, phone or written post) is transparent, has been made known and is available to all workers, local communities and traditional land users	Major
4.1.4	The farmer makes sure that negative impacts of his business to neighbour communities or neighbour production systems are eliminated (e.g. drift, invasive species, pollution etc.).	Major

4. Verification

SFAP makes sure that all criteria are met by all farmers under the SFAP program. Certification takes place at the level of a group of farmers. The section below describes how this is organised.

The first level of verification is present within the group. The group assigns a group manager that will become responsible for the management of the process and will implement an internal control system. All farmers that want to become part of the certified group, fill in a self-assessment form. This can be done collectively in a session that is organised by the group manager (to explain all questions and help farmers fill in their questionnaires correctly) or by all farmers individually. In the self-assessment, farmers answer questions about all criteria requested in the Sustainable Farming Assurance Programme®. The group manager collects the self-assessment forms and counts how many farmers 'self-assess' that they comply with all criteria (all 43 major and at least 3 of the 11 minors). Those farmers obtain a self-declaration, in which they formally state to participate in the group and declare that they have filled in the self-assessment truthfully.

The group manager should implement an internal control system to make sure that all farmers in the group comply with all criteria. When the group manager is aware of the situation on all participating farms, the self-assessment and self-declarations might be enough. When this is not the case, the group manager should take additional measures such as the implementation of a peer-to-peer control system, the request of additional information from the farmer or visiting the farmers him/herself. The group manager is the contact point for all farmers. He or she is also responsible for dealing with questions or complaints within the group. The group manager will also share the results of the internal and external verification activity with the individual producers.

The second level of verification is ensured by the licensed certification body and takes place every year. This certification body will first check the robustness of the internal control system by controlling if all farmers in the group have filled in the self-assessment and self-declaration, if there is additional proof to support the answers from the self-assessments and if the internal group manager has taken additional measures to make sure all farmers comply with all the criteria. Every two years the certification body will issue a public statement about the quality of the internal control system, the robustness of the information and the outcome of the verification of the sample of farmers. This statement will be made available on the website sustainableassurance.com.

The third level of verification is ensured by the auditing of a sample of farmers by the licensed certification body. This audit happens each year. The licensed certification body determines which sample of farmers should be audited based on a regional based risk assessment.

- In low risk[3] areas the sample size must be $\sqrt{n}$
- In medium risk areas the sample size should be $1.5\sqrt{n}$
- In high risk areas the sample must be $2\sqrt{n}$.

**no matter the risk profile, at least 10% of all farmers in the group need to be audited.*

When the results are in accordance with the self-assessments and self-declarations, the entire group receives certification. The certified farmers and their group will be registered on the website of the Sustainable Farming Assurance Programme® and a group book & claim certificate will be issued. For the

[3] The license owner will determine the risk score for farmers in a certain area based on its own experience in auditing farmers in a certain region. Focus of the risk assessment is on: deforestation, water and soil availability and quality, forced labour and child labour.

first year the volume will be determined by using the average yield per hectare of the 3 proceeding years. A certificate will have a validity off running calender year+2 full calender years.

Non-conformities

When non-conformities are found (e.g. not all majors and at least 3 minors are met) on more than 20% of the farms visited, there will be a 30 days' timeframe in which those Non Conformities can be repaired.
If this is not the case, the sample size the certification body has to audit is doubled. Depending on the nature of the non-conformity, the farmer gets 3-6 months to improve the situation before he is allowed to receive certification as part of the group. When major non-conformities – being forced labour, child labour, illegal deforestation and water pollution – are found, the farmer will be excluded from participation. In case the certification body also finds that in the bigger sample more than 20% of the farms deviate from the norm, the entire group will have 1 year to improve the practices on all farms, before the procedure to obtain certification can start again.

Certification for another crop is already present

In case a farmer is already certified to produce a certain commodity (e.g. soy), he/she can use this certification as proof to enter the *Sustainable Farming Assurance Programme*® for other commodities (e.g. maize, wheat etc.). This is only possible when the certification is recognised by the secretariat of the *Sustainable Farming Assurance Programme*®.

5. Application procedure

ProAgros is the first contact person for supply chain partners who want to acquire certified material.
The group manager (e.g. CerQuality in Brazil) is the first contact person for farmers that want to become SFAP certified. ProAgros and the group manager will organise the certification proces.

Application supply chain partners
The supply chain partner contacts ProAgros and discusses its request. On request of ProAgros, the farm group manager will organise the farmer groups to produce the certified materials. The farm group manager will continue the certification process of the farm groups and keep contact with the supply chain partner.

Formation of farmer groups
Farmers apply in groups via the group manager. It is possible that this group is a selection out of a bigger group of farmers that is already united in some way (e.g. a cooperative, a farmer's organisation, all participants in a certain agricultural training programme and so on) but it is also possible that farmers form a group solely with the purpose to obtain group certification. All farmers in the group have to be in the same geographical area. That means that they face similar climatological circumstances and are in the same jurisdiction (same legislation applies to them). This is important because the licensed certification body will determine the sample size based on a regional based risk assessment, that is region specific.

The group manager will send in a request for certification for the entire group and make an appointment with the licensed certification body for a first appointment. During this appointment, the certification body will check the robustness of the internal control system and a sample of farmers before certification is granted. Certification is valid for two years. After two years, the group manager can formally re-apply for new certification with the same, an adjusted or a new group of farmers.

6. Roles and responsibilities

The roles and responsibilities are defined as follows:

6.1 ProAgros

ProAgros is a company that works for several large and small players in the agricultural commodity production chain. ProAgros offers supply chain solutions that are also well accepted by farmers to the market. ProAgros developed *Sustainable Farming Assurance Programme Non Conversion®* in close cooperation with local experts that have a vast experience in working with and managing farm groups. These experts add local farmer knowledge to the programme.

The aim of the programme is to help farmers prove in a credible and cost-efficient manner that they are producing in line with legal requirements and internationally accepted standards for responsible production. And thereby also creating market access to companies / countries that have certain additional sustainability requests and demand solid verification of the sustainability requests.

ProAgros is:

- Owner of the programme
- First contact organization for the programme
- Market facilitator: finding groups of farmers who want to certify and connecting them with supply chain partners who want to buy certified material (Book & Claim incl. Regional Credits)
- Issuing licences to partners who will certify farmers against the programme
- Responsible for the quality of the programme (e.g. by training auditors to execute the programme correctly etc.)
- Responsible for answering questions and dealing with complaints of SFAP soy buyers.
- Responsible to have a calender year based credit tracebility audit of SFAP credits done. This audit will be executed by a licensed audit company. At calender year end, a negative volume of credits in stock is accepted, if and when that negative volume will be compensated by acquiring additional SFAP credits during the running crop year (for South America June/July).

6.2 Farmer group manager

The farmer group manager is the SFAP-partner in the production country that works directly with the farmers and organises the farmer group in a specific region.

<u>The roles and responsibilities of the farmer group manager are as followed. The farmer group manager:</u>

- Is the contact point for an organisation who wants to certify a certain supply shed.
- Is the contact person for the individual farmer or the group of farmers that wants to become certified against the SFAP standard.
- Creates and manages the internal control system of the group of farmers.
- Handles complaints or questions of farmers about the certification procedure or audits.

6.3 Licenses certification body

ProAgros will select a limited number of certifying bodies who obtain the right (license-system) to execute certification of farmers against the *Sustainable Farming Assurance Programme Non Conversion®*. These certifying bodies are the prefered partners of ProAgros, and must meet a number of requirements. These requirements are in line with the requirements as set in the FEFAC Soy Sourcing Guidelines.

Certification bodies qualify when:

- The organisation has an extensive experience with sustainability certification in agro-food chains and works in accordance with the relevant ISO-norms (e.g. 17065, 17021, 17011) and is accredited by a national accreditation organisation affiliated with the IAF.
- The organisation has a broad international experience and is present in the main producing areas: Latin-America, North-America and Eastern Europe.
- The organisation is operating independently and is not (in part) owned by a farmer's organisation, trader, food or feed company.

The roles and responsibilities of the certification body are as follows. The certification body:

- Verifies the robustness of the internal control system.
- Audits a sample of the farmers in the group.
- Reports about the findings of the audits to the group manager and where applicable to specific farmers in the group.
- Handles complaints or questions of farmers about the certification procedure or audits – in close cooperation with the group manager.

7. Supply chain models

SFAP offers two supply chain solutions:

1. Book & Claim
2. Area Mass Balance

7.1 Book & Claim

Farmer groups that are successfully certified under the SFAP programme obtain SFAP-certificates corresponding to the volume of a certain product produced. This certificate is the right to sell a sustainability claim to the market. The SFAP certificates are issued by the Certification Body to the Group Manager of the producer group.

The Certification Body keeps a record of the total volumes certified under the SFAP certification scheme (s) on the accumulating volumes during a calendar year.

The Group manager may sell the certificates to ProAgros, the scheme owner. Each transfer of certificates will be administered by the Certification Body.

On a yearly basis the Certification Body will issue to the scheme owner

1) Total volumes certified during the calendar year.
2) Total volume transferred from the Group manager to the scheme owner.
3) A certificate transfer statement on total volumes transferred to individual end-users (This on initiative and volume indication of ProAgros).

7.2 Area mass balance

Under the area mass balance system, the farmer groups are allowed to transfer their 'sustainability claim' to the scheme owner. The scheme owner and the end customer design a supply chain approach in which the area from which the crops are (physically) sourced corresponds with the area where the certificate have been issued. In this way a solution in between Book & Claim and Mass Balance is designed. This approach safeguards maximal impact in the sourcing area.

8. Definitions

The SFAP Non Conversion standard follows the definitions of the Accountability Framework.
All the important concepts and terms are explained in the section below.

Accountability Framework	A practical, consensus-based guide for achieving and monitoring ethical supply chains. The Framework brings together accepted international norms, best practices, and expectations of commodity buyers, investors, and civil society into a single integrated resource for effective action to address the deforestation, conversion, and human rights impacts of supply chains. The Accountability Framework is created by the Accountability Framework Initiative (Afi)
Area Mass Balance	A supply chain model that holds the middle between Book & Claim and Mass Balance. The model establishes a link between the sourcing area of the physical soy and the area where the certificates for sustainable practices are originating.
Book & Claim	A supply chain approach towards sustainability in which there is no connection between the physical crop in the supply chain and the sustainable practise. Via the trade of sustainability certificates, conventional commodities may be called sustainable.
Cerrado	The Cerrado is a vast tropical savanna ecoregion of Brazil, particularly in the states of Goiás, Mato Grosso do Sul, Mato Grosso, Tocantins, Minas Gerais and the Federal District. The core areas of the Cerrado biome are the Brazilian highlands, the Planalto. The main habitat types of the Cerrado consist of forest savanna, wooded savanna, park savanna and gramineous-woody savanna.
Conversion	Change of a natural ecosystem to another land use or profound change in a natural ecosystem's species composition, structure, or function. Conversion includes severe degradation or the introduction of management practices that result in substantial and sustained change in the ecosystem's former species composition, structure, or function.
Conversion-free	Another word for produced with no-conversion (see no-conversion)
Comprehensive, participatory and documented community rights assessment	Community rights assessment should aim at: a) identifying the individual and collective uses and rights of local communities and traditional land users; b) identifying uses of water resources c) identifying the places and landscape conditions needed to meet these rights; d) identifying the places/issues where there is conflict between property rights and traditional land use rights and ecosystem services; e) finding a solution to resolve possible conflicting land uses and/or agree on proposals for compensation. Where a legal judgment has been reached, the terms of this judgment will be respected. Should there a litigation process, while this is sub judice (under litigation; decision pending), this will not hinder access to certification provided that guidance given by the judge is followed. In the absence of such guidance, traditional land users may continue exercising their rights until the case is resolved (Source RTRS)
Cut-off date	(Related to no-deforestation and no-conversion commitments): The date after which deforestation or conversion renders a given area or production unit non-compliant with no-deforestation or no-conversion commitments, respectively.
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. Loss of natural forest that meets this definition is considered to be deforestation regardless of whether or not it is legal. The Accountability Framework's definition of deforestation signifies "gross deforestation" of natural forest where "gross" is used in the sense of "total; aggregate; without deduction for reforestation or other offset. (Source: The Accountability Framework)
Deforestation-free	See no-deforestation.
Free, Prior, Informed Consent	A collective human right of indigenous peoples and local communities to give and withhold their consent prior to the commencement of any activity that may affect their rights, land, resources, territories, livelihoods, and food security. It is a right exercised through representatives of their own choosing and in a manner consistent with their own customs, values, and norms.
Forest	Land spanning more than 0.5 hectares with trees higher than 5 meters and a canopy cover of more than 10 percent, or trees able to reach these thresholds in situ. It does not include land that is predominantly under agricultural or other land use. Forest includes natural forests and tree plantations. For the purpose of implementing no-deforestation supply chain commitments, the focus is on preventing the conversion of natural forests.
High Conservation Value approach	The HCV Approach is a unique three-step methodology that helps protect HCVs where development will take place. HCVs are biological, ecological, social or cultural values of outstanding significance at the national, regional or global level or of critical importance at the local level. All natural habitats possess inherent conservation values, including the presence of rare or endemic species, provision of ecosystem services, sacred sites, or resources harvested by local residents.
IAF	The IAF is the world association of Conformity Forum (IAF) Assessment Accreditation Bodies and other bodies interested in conformity assessment in the fields of management systems, products, services, personnel and other similar programmes of conformity assessment.
ILO Conventions	The ILO Conventions are international treaties about labour practices and human rights. They are instruments, which create legally binding obligations on the countries that ratify them. Recommendations are non-binding and set out guidelines orienting national policies and actions.
ILO Fundamental Conventions	The eight ILO fundamental Conventions are: the Forced Labour Convention, 1930 (No. 29) , the Abolition of Forced Labour Convention, 1957 (No. 105) , the Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organise Convention, 1948 (No. 87) , the Right to Organise and Collective Bargaining Convention, 1949 (No. 98) , the Equal Remuneration Convention, 1951 (No. 100) , the Discrimination (Employment and Occupation) Convention, 1958 (No. 111) , the Minimum Age Convention, 1973 (No. 138) , and the Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No. 182) .
ISO 17021	ISO standard on: Conformity assessment; Requirements for bodies providing audit and certification of management systems
ISO 17065	ISO standard on: Conformity assessment; Requirements for bodies certifying products, processes and services
ISO 17011	ISO standard on: Conformity assessment — Requirements for accreditation bodies accrediting conformity assessment bodies
ISO 22095	ISO standard on: Chain of custody — General terminology and models
Internal control	The internal control systems contains all agreements, procedures,

system	administration and verification mechanisms to make sure production of soy is in line with the sustainability requirements.
Integrated crop management	An environmentally sensitive and economically viable production system or process which uses the latest available techniques to produce high quality food in an efficient manner.
Landstat satellite images	This joint NASA/USGS program provides the longest continuous space-based record of Earth's land in existence. Every day, Landsat satellites provide essential information to help land managers and policy makers make wise decisions about our resources and our environment.
Mass balance	The chain of custody option "Mass balance" allows the physical mixing of batches while the bookkeeping for different sustainability characteristics must be separated.
Natural Forest	Natural forests possess many or most of the characteristics of a forest native to the given site, including species composition, structure, and ecological function. Natural forests include: Primary forests that have not been subject to major human impacts in recent history, Regenerated (second-growth) forests that were subject to major impacts in the past (for instance by agriculture, livestock raising, tree plantations, or intensive logging) but where the main causes of impact have ceased or greatly diminished and the ecosystem has attained much of the species composition, structure, and ecological function of prior or other contemporary natural ecosystems. Managed natural forests where much of the ecosystem's composition, structure, and ecological function exist in the presence of activities such as: Harvesting of timber or other forest products, including management to promote high-value species, Low intensity, small-scale cultivation within the forest, such as less-intensive forms of swidden agriculture in a forest mosaic, Forests that have been partially degraded by anthropogenic or natural causes (e.g., harvesting, fire, climate change, invasive species, or others) but where the land has not been converted to another use and where degradation does not result in the sustained reduction of tree cover below the thresholds that define a forest or sustained loss of other main elements of ecosystem composition, structure, and ecological function (Source: Afi)
Natural Ecosystem	An ecosystem that substantially resembles – in terms of species composition, structure, and ecological function – one that is or would be found in a given area in the absence of major human impacts. This includes human-managed ecosystems where much of the natural species composition, structure, and ecological function are present. Natural ecosystems include: Largely "pristine" natural ecosystems that have not been subject to major human impacts in recent history, Regenerated natural ecosystems that were subject to major impacts in the past (for instance by agriculture, livestock raising, tree plantations, or intensive logging) but where the main causes of impact have ceased or greatly diminished and the ecosystem has attained species composition, structure and ecological function similar to prior or other contemporary natural ecosystems; Managed natural ecosystems (including many ecosystems that could be referred to as "semi-natural") where much of the ecosystem's composition, structure, and ecological function are present; this includes managed natural forests as well as native grasslands or rangelands that are, or have historically been, grazed by livestock, Natural ecosystems that have been partially degraded by anthropogenic or natural causes (e.g., harvesting, fire, climate change, invasive species, or others) but

	where the land has not been converted to another use and where much of the ecosystem's composition, structure, and ecological function remain present or are expected to regenerate naturally or by management for ecological restoration (Source: Afi)
Native grassland	Native grasslands are grasslands that substantially resemble – in terms of species composition, structure, and ecological function – one that is or would be found in a given area in the absence of major human impacts.
No-conversion	Commodity production, sourcing, or financial investments that do not cause or contribute to the conversion of natural ecosystems (as defined by the Accountability Framework). No-conversion refers to no gross conversion of natural ecosystems, which the Accountability Framework specifies as the appropriate policy and goal on this topic for companies and supply chains.
No-deforestation	No-deforestation refers to no gross deforestation of natural forests, which the Accountability Framework specifies as the appropriate policy and goal on this topic for companies and supply chains.
No-tillage	No-till farming is an agricultural technique for growing crops or pasture without disturbing the soil through tillage
Peatlands	Pristine peatlands are characterized by the presence of water and special vegetation. The peat soil, often exceeding many meters in depth, consists of organic material and water and is created by the accumulation of partially decomposed plant materials. The layers of peat build up over sometimes thousands of years and preserve other materials including pollen grains, human artefacts and ancient bodies, giving us an unrivalled window into the past (Source: Ramsar Convention)
Precision farming	Precision agriculture means that plants get precisely the treatment they need, determined with great accuracy thanks to the latest technology.
Prodes (Amazon/Cerrado)	PRODES data are the official national statistics on deforestation, used by the Brazilian government to establish public policy and track progress towards deforestation reduction goals.
Riparian vegetation	The riparian zone is characterized by both its proximity to water and by the plants and animals present. In terms of location, the riparian zone is always directly adjacent to a moving body of water such as a stream, river, or estuary (Source: https://biologydictionary.net/riparian-zone/)
Rotterdam Convention	The Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade) is a multilateral treaty to promote shared responsibilities in relation to importation of hazardous chemicals.
Savannas	A mixed woodland-grassland ecosystem characterised by the trees being sufficiently widely spaced so that the canopy does not close.
Stockholm Convention	Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants is an international environmental treaty, signed in 2001 and effective from May 2004, that aims to eliminate or restrict the production and use of persistent organic pollutants (POPs).
Swamps	A swamp is an area of land permanently saturated, or filled, with water. There are two main types of swamps: freshwater swamps and saltwater swamps. Swamps are dominated by trees. They are often named for the type of trees that grow in them, such as cypress swamps or hardwood swamps.

Terraces	A terrace is a piece of sloped plane that has been cut into a series of successively receding flat surfaces or platforms, which resemble steps, for the purposes of more effective farming.
Third party verification	Third-party verification: Verification conducted by an independent entity that does not provide other services to the company
Wetlands	Areas of marsh, fen, peatland or water, whether natural or artificial, permanent or temporary, with water that is static or flowing, fresh, brackish or salt, including areas of marine water the depth of which at low tide does not exceed six metres.

Annex 1: Assurance of the non-conversion claim

The non-conversion criteria are verified by the independent third party responsible for certifying farmers against the SFAP Non-Conversion Standard. For the non-conversion criteria Landsat and Sentinel satellite images are used and ArcGIS Pro is used to identify changes in land cover (land conversion).

Main facts and figures:

Base software:

- ArcGIS Pro

Satellites used:

- Landsat 5, 7 and 8 (spatial resolution of 30 meters)
- Sentinel 2 (10 meter spatial resolution)

Public data sources used:

- PRODES Cerrado by INPE; (spatial resolution of 30 meters); retrieved on http://cerrado.obt.inpe.br/

Methodology:

Phase 1: Delimitation of the area of interest
Creation of a database with the polygons of the areas that will be monitored by receiving them from an external source or delimiting them through georeferenced descriptive memorials.

Phase 2: Image acquisition and processing
Definition of the period of analysis, obtaining the images of interest and post-processing of these in a GIS environment (Geographic Information System) taking, as a reference, the proximity to the deadlines and atmospheric conditions (avoiding images with a high rate of cloud cover).

Phase 3: Analysis and detection of changes
Identification of possible areas of deforestation of native vegetation through the detection of changes (algorithm + individual review) based on changes in existing patterns (colour, texture, roughness, etc.) and on the variation of vegetation indices used (which reflect the presence or of vegetation, as well as the level of its development).

Phase 4: Cartographic Production
Production of individualized cartographic document (by farm / area) containing the satellite images used, the polygon of the area of interest and the delimitation / measurement of possible areas for suppression of native vegetation.

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Certificates to be issued exclusively by ProAgros after verification of the farm (group) by a SFAP licensed Certification Body.

Certification registration will be done exclusively by or on behalf of ProAgros.