

Buenos Aires, February 2012

FEMAS and RTRS launch a joint module for responsible soy supply

In a thorough and extensive process of dialogue between UK's Feed Materials Assurance Scheme (FEMAS) and the Round Table on Responsible Soy Association (RTRS) an agreement was made on how to jointly operate in the context of soy certification.

The new FEMAS and RTRS module has the following characteristics:

- ✓ it brings together the strength of RTRS sustainability criteria at the farm level, with the pre-existing robust supply chain certification of the food/ feed safety focused FEMAS scheme,
- ✓ offers dual FEMAS/RTRS certification, without compromising the criteria of either standard and by complementing both standards,
- ✓ it is also compatible with the FEMAS and RTRS Non GM modules, offering an alternative for that market.

RTRS Executive Director Agustin Mascotena said: "The possibility of joint certification allows a smooth integration of RTRS Chain of Custody into an established and proved food security chain of custody system like FEMAS; it facilitates an easy adoption and significant audit time reduction. I am very happy with the outcome, and we will continue to position the RTRS in the market while safeguarding our multi-stakeholder consensus-based principles".

Chairman of the FEMAS Standard Writing Group, Tim Oliver said: "We are delighted to have agreed the joint FEMAS and RTRS Module. Food safety and sustainability are both critical aspects of the soya supply chain but FEMAS and the RTRS recognized the dangers of 'audit fatigue' for participants required to be certified separately for each programme. This option allows food safety and sustainability to be addressed at the same audit without a significant escalation in costs and without compromising the goals of either FEMAS or RTRS.

To certify this module it is necessary to comply with the FEMAS core standard + FEMAS & RTRS module, and to be able to demonstrate that the soy is RTRS certified at farm level. This certification allows joint FEMAS/RTRS claims in accordance with the RTRS Communications & Claims policy.

About FEMAS

The FEMAS feed ingredients scheme is based on HACCP principles and is audited and certified by an independent certification body, in accordance with the internationally recognised standard EN45011. This means that the certification body is itself independently assessed every year to ensure that the standard is implemented and administered consistently and fairly. The scheme dovetails with UFAS and with the UK livestock assurance (Little Red Tractor) schemes which the major supermarkets make a requirement for the home-produced livestock products they buy. FEMAS participants are a diverse group of companies, ranging from specialist additive manufacturers to food processors and brewers. Participants certified to the new FEMAS/ RTRS module may opt to operate under mass balance or segregation systems.

About RTRS

Established in 2006 in Switzerland, the Round Table on Responsible Soy Association (RTRS) is a multi-stakeholder initiative which aims to facilitate a global dialogue on soy production that is economically viable, socially equitable and environmentally sound. It provides stakeholders - producers, social organizations and business and industry - with the opportunity to jointly develop global solutions leading to responsible soy production. The RTRS, an international association with more than 150 members, has developed a standard for responsible soy production that includes requirements to halt conversion of areas with high conservation value, to promote best management practices, to ensure fair working conditions, and to respect land tenure claims. The certification scheme for production and Chain of Custody, and the Credit Trading Platform made it possible to have RTRS-certified responsible soy available for the global market for the second year in a row.

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