



Deforestation Commitment Progress Report

Bakkavor Group PLC

Bakkavor commits to 100% deforestation and conversion free sourcing of palm oil, soy, beef and wood pulp by 2025 with a 2020 cut-off date*

* The cut-off date is based on the [Accountability Framework Initiative](#) definition. This means that clearance of natural forest after this date renders the affected area or production unit, and the commodity produced there, non-compliant with no-deforestation or no-conversion commitments.

Scope: Bakkavor Foods UK

Bakkavor is committed to combating deforestation and land use conversion.

Deforestation is a key issue for the whole food industry and a substantial contributor to climate change.

Global food systems face pressures from multiple, often interconnected sources. For our business, the resilience of our supply chain is fundamental to our operations and ensuring environmental sustainability is at the heart of this. With our supplier partners we work to understand and mitigate environmental impacts, with a particular focus on deforestation and land conversion.

Bakkavor has been compiling comprehensive data on all our deforestation commodity consumption and supply chains since 2022 and we saw improvements in data submissions this year. As the vast majority of our soy consumption is embedded as feed in the livestock, dairy and egg products procured by Bakkavor, we contract sustainable sourcing experts 3Keel to measure our soy footprint and assess compliance with our soy policy and Soy Manifesto commitments.

PALM OIL

Bakkavor has been a member of the Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO) since 2012 and submits an [Annual Communication of Progress Report](#) as required by membership.

[WWF Palm Oil Buyers Scorecard](#) classed Bakkavor as 'well on path'. In 2023 the company score increased to position the business in the top 20% of buyers (44/285 globally).

As of 2023, 99.9% of UK-sourced palm oil is RSPO certified deforestation and conversion free with 99.9% of that being supplied segregated.

BEEF

All the beef procured for our UK business comes from origins at low risk of deforestation or land use conversion.

WOOD PULP

All our primary cardboard packaging has been sourced from FSC or PEFC certified deforestation and conversion free sources since 2021. In 2023, we extended this to secondary cardboard packaging.

SOY

Soy is a common feed component for farmed animals and is 'embedded' within ingredients such as meat, eggs, farmed fish, milk, butter, cream and cheese.

Since 2020, Bakkavor has purchased RTRS credits that support the production of sustainable soy to offset uncertified supplies from origins associated with deforestation.

Bakkavor introduced a Deforestation and Conversion Free Soy Policy in 2022 to make clear our expectations of suppliers. The policy is applicable to all soy used in Bakkavor products including animal feed for meat, fish, dairy, and egg products.

As signatories to the UK Soy Manifesto, we work with industry partners to ensure all shipments of soy and imports of embedded soy to the UK are verified deforestation and conversion free (vDCF) by 2025.

Bakkavor soy commitment and policy is referenced in the Supplier Code of Conduct, meaning all suppliers are made aware of our expectation as a condition of supply. We have identified those suppliers comprising the majority of Bakkavor soy footprint and contract 3keel to engage with these suppliers to provide the data included in this report.

Our commitment extends to supply chains beyond the UK where the soy is imported embedded in the product. We engage directly with the largest of these suppliers to ensure that their commitments align with ours and encourage them to participate in the Embedded Soy working group. This forum identifies key countries supplying meat, fish and dairy to the UK and engages with industry, government, and civil society stakeholders working to achieve vDCF soy in each country.

2024 Soy Plan

Increasing supply

We continue to engage with direct and indirect suppliers, industry bodies, government agencies and customers to increase the volume of vDCF soy available to, and used within, our supply chains. Global supply of vDCF soy remains limited, and where it exists our suppliers are often unable to access evidence of where the soy is grown to demonstrate deforestation and conversion free production.

Capacity building

We recognise that soy supply chains are complex and many of our suppliers do not purchase soy directly. Suppliers are invited to join webinars that explain soy supply chains and how to move towards sourcing vDCF soy. Bakkavor Responsible Sourcing Team ran webinars in 2023 for procurement colleagues to improve their engagement with suppliers on this topic.

Driving industry change

Bakkavor represents the manufacturing sector on the Soy Manifesto Strategic Governance Group and established a Manufacturers' Working Group to build capacity and encourage best practice to be shared.

Soy Supply Chain Data

Soy volume 2023 - 20,615T*

(*based on raw material / soy volume data provided by Bakkavor suppliers)

Soy usage by origin

- Brazil 10.81%
- Argentina 6.85%
- USA 4.16%
- Various, not including South America 0.64%
- Various, including South America 0.50%

Physically verified deforestation and conversion free

- Supplier MRV programme 0.63%
- Low risk origin 4.80%

In transition towards verified deforestation and conversion free

- RTRS Credits in supply chain 3.57%
- RTRS Credits purchased by Bakkavor 81.18%
- Mass Balance 7.71%
- Regional Certificates 2.11%

Suppliers with soy commitment:

- Not committed 61.5%
- Manifesto signatories 28.85%
- 2025 commitment 9.62%

Soy volume covered by a vDCF Soy Policy:

- Developing Policy 43.08%
- No plan 29.51%
- Policy adopted 24.81%
- Undergoing internal review 2.60%