

## **Product Board for Margarine, Fats and Oils position statement on sustainable sourcing of raw materials**

The Product Board for Margarine, Fats and Oils (MVO) regards sustainable sourcing of raw materials as essential for a healthy socio-economic development of the oils and fats supply chain. MVO is a statutory industrial organisation representing Dutch production and trading companies throughout the supply chain. As such, it has a specific position and responsibility to work with companies, government authorities and representatives of civil society towards establishing sustainable production.

### Principles for achieving the sustainable sourcing of raw materials

- Activities and measures should be aimed at promoting sustainability of a raw material's main stream.
- In a supply chain of production, processing and trade with international dimensions this requires agreements at the international level with the producing countries.
- Broad support from all parties involved is a precondition for ensuring the effectiveness of such agreements. Active participation by government authorities, companies and civil society representatives is therefore of great importance.
- The development and implementation of national sustainability criteria should be aligned with international standards and initiatives.
- The development and implementation of sustainability criteria should be consistent with international trade agreements (WTO).
- Efforts by companies to achieve sustainable production should be judged on a case-by-case basis and should not be discouraged by measures affecting an entire product group.

### Activities by MVO and individual companies for the sustainable sourcing of raw materials

- The Product Board for Margarine, Fats and Oils and the individual companies are members of the Round Table on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO). They are closely involved in the activities of this international initiative by the industry and civil society organisations.
- MVO and the individual companies participate in the public-private Palm Oil Partnership, an agreement between the Dutch, Malaysian and Indonesian governments to improve the food safety aspects of palm oil and to promote sustainable production.
- MVO and the companies are members of the Round Table on Responsible Soy (RTRS) and actively involved in its activities.
- MVO and Nevedi (The Netherlands Feed Industry Association) hold the secretariat of the Task Force Responsible Soy, which represents the Dutch soy processing industry in support of the work of the RTRS.
- MVO publishes the quarterly newsletter *Duurzame Productie* (Sustainable Production). This newsletter is sent to companies in the oils and fats industry. It reports on the latest policy developments, paying particular attention the RSPO, the RTRS and the Palm Oil Partnership.
- MVO publishes reviews of production and trade figures to support discussions on the sustainable sourcing of raw materials.
- MVO stimulates and plays an active role in the dialogue with civil society organisations and government authorities.

In addition to the sustainable sourcing of raw materials, the Product Board is also working towards the introduction of sustainable business management in the MVO companies to promote corporate social responsibility. MVO coordinates supply chain activities and campaigns for government policies and legislation that further promote this work.

You can find more information on the Product Board for Margarine, Fats and Oils, our activities in the field of sustainability and the sustainability initiatives within the sector at [www.mvo.nl](http://www.mvo.nl) and <http://www.mvo.nl/duurzame-productie/index.html>.

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