Our Standards

Donau Soja Standard

**Donau Soja soybeans are**
- from the Danube Region
- non-GM
- zero deforestation / zero conversion
- a product of controlled quality and origin

Europe Soya Standard

**Europe Soya soybeans are**
- from Europe
- non-GM
- zero deforestation/ zero conversion
- a product of controlled quality and origin
- Optional: Quantity Equivalence System

Europe Soya is produced under the same principles, requirements and certification system as Donau Soja. Donau Soja can become Europe Soya, but not vice versa.
• All Donau Soja & Europe Soya is verified and controlled from Danube Region/Europe.

• All Donau Soja & Europe Soya produce is certified non-GM,
  according to the strict German regulation, the Austrian Food Codex or the Non-GM Danube Region Standard.

• In Donau Soya & Europa Soya cultivation, only pesticides approved in the EU are allowed - also in non-EU countries.

  In addition agrochemicals listed in the Stockholm and Rotterdam Convention as well as in the WHO lists 1a and 1b are prohibited. Donau Soja & Europe Soya banned desiccation (e.g. glyphosate or diquat) and aerial spraying consistently.

• All Donau Soja & Europe Soya cultivation is guaranteed free from deforestation and land use change.

  Donau Soja & Europe Soya is cultivated only on land that has been dedicated to agricultural use before 1 January 2008 and with respect to nature reserves (protected areas).

• All Donau Soja & Europe Soya is produced according to EU laws and international regulations (namely ILO) regarding social and labour standards.
Donau Soja (DS) is of certified origin from **the Danube region**

Europe Soya (ES) is of certified origin from **Europe**

These countries are included in Donau Soja with the following regions:

**GERMANY:** Bavaria, Baden-Württemberg

**ITALY:** Trentino Alto Adige, Friuli Venezia Giulia, Veneto, Emilia-Romagna, Lombardia, Piemont, Vallée d’Aoste

**POLAND:** Dolnoslaskie, Opolskie, Śląskie, Świętokrzyskie, Podkarpackie, Małopolskie

**UKRAINE:** Uschgorod, Tschernowzy, Winniza, Odessa, Lwow, Ternopol, Chmelnizkij, Iwano-Frankovsm
Traceability & Transparency

Donau Soja & Europe Soya guarantee regionality – from farm to fork!

1. Three-Staged Inspection System
2. IT-Supported Traceability System
3. Origin testing using the Soya Isotope Database – a worldwide innovation
1. Three-Staged Inspection System

**Donau Soja & Europe Soya inspections along the whole value chain**

Three-staged inspection system:

1. **Self-monitoring / Quality Assurance system**
2. **External, independent certification bodies for DS/ES certification**
3. **Integrity audits by Donau Soja**
2. IT-Supported Traceability System

- Farmer
- Collector
- Trader
- Primary Processor (Oil mill, Toaster)
- Feed User/Food Processor

- Declarations of Self-Commitment
- Lot Certificates (raw beans)
- Certificates of Traceability (processed soy)
3. Isotope Database

In the analysis the main isotope patterns of the elements (C, N, S, O, H) are identified and categorised for the main soya bean growing regions.

By a categorization of the isotope patterns the tool can be used to trace the origin of soya beans, meal, SPC or soybean oil.

Were these beans grown in Europe?
Response database: Yes, by a “high X” probability.
All Donau Soja & Europe Soya produce is non-GM according to the strict German regulation, the Austrian Food Codex or the Non-GM Danube Region Standard.
Non-GM

Guaranteed by strict control and analysis

Non-GM is guaranteed through inspections of producers and processors at all levels.

Checked through GMO analysis:
- GMO rapid tests – fast, simple, practical, inexpensive
- PCR – reliable, safe, precise

Donau Soja & Europe Soya requires:
- GMO rapid test on RoundupReady® & LibertyLink® within collectors’ and primary processors’ self-monitoring, within RL-3 farmers’ external inspections (green soya plants)
- PCR during external audits, within compound feed plants’ and primary processors’ self-monitoring, during supervisory inspections
Reduced use of plant protection products

Donau Soja promotes the reduction of pesticide use.

In Donau Soja & Europa Soya cultivation, only pesticides approved in the EU are allowed - also in non-EU countries.

Agrochemicals listed in the Stockholm and Rotterdam Convention as well as in the WHO lists 1a and 1b\(^1\) are prohibited.

Donau Soja & Europe Soya prohibit desiccation\(^2\) (e.g. glyphosate or diquat).

Obligatory pesticide testing in countries of higher risk.

\(^1\) [https://www.who.int/ipcs/publications/pesticides_hazard/en/](https://www.who.int/ipcs/publications/pesticides_hazard/en/)

\(^2\) Desiccation is the application of herbicides to the crop shortly before harvest
Reduced use of plant protection products

Donau Soja Best Practice Manual

• recommendations for farmers on how to optimize and reduce their pesticide use

• International version available in English

• Regional versions for Serbia, Moldova ( Romanian and Russian) and for Ukraine

Download:

https://www.donausoja.org/en/research/agriculture/manuals/
Donau Soja & Europe Soya cultivation is guaranteed free from deforestation and land use change.

Donau Soja & Europe Soya is cultivated…

- only on land that has been dedicated to agricultural use before 2008,
- with respect to nature reserves (protected areas) and
- with the obligation to restore protected areas.
No land use change

Using satellite data to identify potential risks in Donau Soja & Europe Soya region

Part of Donau Soja & Europe Soya integrity audits
## Benefits at a glance (1)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Donau Soja (DS)/Europe Soya (ES)</th>
<th>European soy (without certification)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **Product quality & safety** | Quality product according to DS/ES standards  
Certification by independent certification bodies  
Controlled quality along the whole value chain from field to fork | No name product  
No certification from field to fork  
No security |
| **Genetic engineering**  | Compliance with the German (VLOG) or Austrian (Codex) non-GM Standards or the Non-GM Danube Region Standard | Non-GM not guaranteed/checked/certified in the supply chain |
| **Pesticides**           | Pesticide requirements: EU legislation as baseline, ban on Stockholm & Rotterdam convention chemicals, ban on WHO 1a/1b chemicals, ban for aerial spraying, no desiccation and thus no Glyphosate in cultivation | No pesticide regulation except for respective national laws that can be much below EU legislation (e.g. Ukraine) |
| **Land Use Change**      | No land use change, no clearing of natural areas, no cultivation in protected areas             | No regulation on land use change except for respective national laws if existing                     |
| **Origin**               | Independently inspected origin back to the farm                                                 | No controlled origin                                                                                  |
## Benefits at a glance (2)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Donau Soja (DS)/Europe Soya (ES)</th>
<th>European soy (without certification)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Marketing &amp; Communication</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Donau Soja offices as contact points for partners and consumers;</td>
<td>No specific communication</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>communication with media and other stakeholders</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Consumer label</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Product label available, clear message to the consumer about</td>
<td>No label</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>safe and traceable quality product;</td>
<td>No-Name-Product</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Farmers</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Certified and labelled products support the development of stable</td>
<td>In anonymous supply chains spot market buying dominates – often to the</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>supply chains for farmers, collectors and processors</td>
<td>detriment of weaker market players such as farmers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Network, consultation &amp; services</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Donau Soja Organisation has an existing network of offices and</td>
<td>No structure, no service</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>consultants</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Sustainability Benchmarking

Donau Soja and Europe Soya sustainable standards are recognised by the following associations:

- **Europe Soya**
  - Donau Soja/ Europe Soya is accepted by FEFAc as one of 18 sustainable sourcing standards

- **United Kingdom**
  - UK Roundtable on Sustainable Soya assessed and recommends Donau Soja/ Europe Soya as one of 10 sustainable soya sourcing standards

- **Switzerland**
  - Swiss Soy Network defines Donau Soja/ Europe Soya as one of 5 sustainable sourcing standards

- **Sweden**
  - Swedish Soy Dialogue accepts Donau Soja/ Europe Soya as one of 4 sustainable soya sourcing standards

- **The Netherlands**
  - IUCN recommends Donau Soja/ Europe Soya as one of 6 sustainable sourcing standards

- **Germany**
  - WWF Germany recommends Donau Soja/ Europe Soya as one of 4 sustainable sourcing standards

- **Austria**
  - Greenpeace Austria rated Donau Soja as „reliable and sustainable“ product label

- **Germany**
  - Thünen Institut Germany recommends Donau Soja/ Europe Soya as one of 6 sustainable soya sourcing standards

- **Germany**
  - VLOG recognizes Donau Soja/ Europe Soya certification as equivalent to VLOG standard certification
After harvest in autumn 2019, around **675 000 tons** of Donau Soja & Europe Soya soybeans from **eleven countries** have been stored at over 100 different primary collectors and soya processors. This make Donau Soja & Europe Soya the leading sustainable soya standards in Europe.
Products on the Market

Several animal and plant-based products produced with Donau Soja or Europe Soya certified soy are available on the markets of:

- Austria
- Switzerland
- Germany
- Serbia
- Finland

...and further programmes are already in the pipeline!

Find all current programmes on our website:
www.donaussoja.com/where-we-can-be-found/#products
How to get a Donau Soja / Europe Soya certificate?

Next steps:

1. Read the Infosheet *Steps of Certification* and the Donau Soja / Europe Soya Guidelines (available in the [DOWNLOADS](#) section on our homepage)

2. Implement the requirements in your company (non-GM, physical segregation, consistent traceability)

3. Contact an approved certification body

4. Become a member of the Donau Soja Association (obligatory for R04-06)

5. Audit & Certification

6. Acquire soya (products) from [certified companies](#) only

*For further information please contact:*

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