



Danube Soya for the Promotion
of European Soya Production

Danube Soya – non-gm and regional soya for groceries and animal feed

Press release

Danube Soya is an international and non-profit association promoting sustainable and GMO-free soya production along the Danube Region. The association focuses on using the Danube Region's potential for supplying Europe with sustainable and certified soya.

Danube Soya Association, Vienna, February 2016

Danube Soya promotes the cultivation of GMO-free soya beans in the Danube Region under the brand name Danube Soya. Through investments in the cultivation of high-quality soya, the Danube Region and the Danube itself are being strengthened as Europe's supply line. Furthermore, the expansion of the infrastructure, which is required for the value chain, offers interesting economical perspectives. In collaboration with its partners, the organization implements breeding and research projects for GMO-free soybean seeds and for plant protection concepts. Through new economical perspectives, the project connects the Danube region and offers economic opportunities under Austrian coordination.

For already four years the Danube Soya Association focuses on promoting the European soya bean cultivation as a contribution to an independent protein supply. In 2015, the cultivation of soya beans increased by 25 % compared to 2014. About 950,800 ha of soya were sown by farmers of the Danube region, excluding the Ukraine. 'The Danube region offers the best circumstances for cultivating soya beans. Therefore, we have to take advantage of these conditions. Thanks to Danube Soya food producers have the opportunity for a changeover to certified and regional animal feed', states Ursula Bittner, association manager of the 2012 founded association.

Increasing demand for organic soya

Since the 2014 harvest, Danube Soya beans can also be organically certified. The Danube Soya organic standard is based on both the EU Organic Regulation 834/2007 for organic production of agricultural produce and the Danube Soya Standard. Additionally, all divisions of the agricultural holding have to be run based on controlled organic agriculture. The implementations' control of all requirements of the Organic Danube Soya standard takes place at all stages of the



supply chain. As recent years have shown the demand for organic soya for groceries and feed is constantly increasing.

Soya cultivation in the Danube region is constantly increasing

While in 2012 a production of 3.8 million tons of soya beans could have been recorded, 2015 it nearly increased up to 6.5 million tons in the Danube region and the Ukraine. This growth is going to be continued if the steady demand of processors and the food retailing industry will not fall. The association places high hopes in the northern part of the Danube region: In April 2015 Danube Soya started efforts in Poland and Ukraine. With an area of more than 2.1 million ha of soya beans, Ukraine is European leader in terms of soya bean production. Furthermore, there are also high surface increases in Romania, Bulgaria, Serbia and Hungary – in 2015 the cultivated area's surplus is 200.000 ha in these countries. Besides the Ukraine, also Serbia, Italy, Romania, France and Austria possess considerable areas of soybean acreage.

16 primary processors produce Danube Soya

Producers and primary processors from the Danube Region receive a facilitate access to new trading partners. 'There are many advantages for all people involved: the Danube region's agriculture is becoming more and more networked. Consequently, Eastern-European processors and farmers have the possibility to explore new markets. Meanwhile, there are more and more retailers in Germany, Switzerland and Austria who are demanding sustainable and regional soya', clarifies Bittner. The certification of primary processors, agricultural collectors, compound feed plants and producers is running at full blast. There are already 16 primary processors who are processing Danube Soya for Austrian and Swiss laying hens, broilers and pigs. 'We are happy about taking part at BioFach for the first time and are already looking forward to present our project to many potential partners', announces Bittner.

About Danube Soya:

The Danube Soya Association is a non-profit, independent association and constitutes Austria's major initiative in the agricultural sector. The association unites civilian population, politics and various businesses along the value chain, ranging from GMO-free seed production to food of animal and plant origin. Danube Soya's focus lies in GMO-free, source identified high-quality soya from the Danube Region. The association has more than 200 members from all over Europe and aims at improving the successful soya cultivation in Europe and minimizing soya imports.

You will find further information at www.donausoja.org.

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