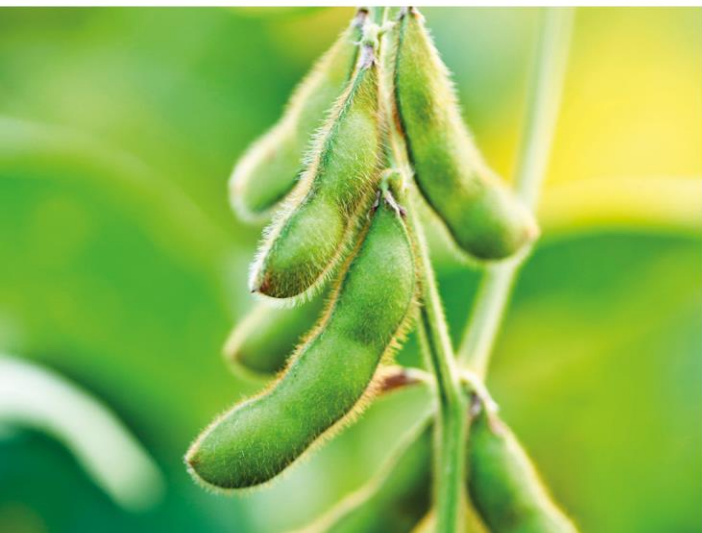


DONAU SOJA

HIGHLIGHTS 2023





Navigating the future of non-GMO production: challenges, regulatory outlook, and market potential

7-8 October 2024
Frankfurt/Main, Germany
www.nongmosummit.com

The second International Non-GMO Summit will provide comprehensive insights into non-GMO production, from regulatory updates to market trends and consumer expectations. It will offer valuable information about what's happening in European and international non-GMO markets.

Our international summit offers the opportunity to engage in the debate and to exchange with experts and fellow participants within the non-GMO value chain.

The International Non-GMO Summit 2024 is hosted and coordinated by the key business associations in the non-GMO market.



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FOREWORD

Dear members, partners, and friends

When we started our journey twelve years ago, we called for 15 million tonnes of European soya and an end to imports based on land use change. In 2023, we reached 12 million tonnes, continuing the positive upward development of European soya cultivation and only a few small steps away from 15 million tonnes. The EU has started to regulate deforestation. We have a lot of discussions about the EUDR and certainly not all agree on its implementation, but these important milestones show that our vision of a resilient, environmentally sound European protein production and use continues to shape and drive change in our environment. This is thanks to all of you, our members, partners and friends. The journey continues, we need all hands to keep advancing our agenda.

Donau Soja has built partnerships with the value chain from seed to fork, from farmer to retailer. It is a unique organisation that links input suppliers with soya farmers in the EU and beyond, and all of them with users across Europe. In the EU, we work with national sister organisations and directly to support the development of a healthy EU soya value chain. We are also very active in the EU neighbouring countries of Serbia, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Ukraine and Moldova, where we have excellent offices and activities thanks to our long-term partnership with the Austrian Development Agency. The unity of Europe is under challenge from aggression, war and nationalism. Donau Soja shows that a transnational European organisation can be successful and bring together EU and non-EU countries in a common purpose.

Currently, many of us are working hard to fulfil the requirements of the EUDR, the EU Deforestation Regulation. Donau Soja is involved on all levels, in several stakeholder and expert committees, in supporting you to comply with the EUDR, lobbying for clarity and practicality in implementation - and to ensure that all of you are informed of the situation at all times.

But Donau Soja is much more than just deforestation-free soya from Europe. We are non-GM, conversion-free with a cut-off date of 2008, so using our standards gives you the edge in claiming substantial reductions of CO2 and helping you fulfil Scope 3 reduction requirements. Going for the gold-standard now will help you be ready for the future, when transparency, fairness and sound environmental standards become the norm. And we continue to offer more services and products to help you future-proof your business while making the world a better place.

In 2023, on the occasion of 150 years of soy in Europe, we hosted the world of soya research at the World Soya Research Conference 11. I think everybody who was experienced this world-class event will agree that it brought European soya to the world and the world to Europe. Many new friendships, connections and collaboration were started here, and we will feel the results of this for many years to come.

Our wish is that we will continue to push, fight and work together for the future of a sustainable European protein supply with a global vision and local action.



Matthias Krön
President and Chairman



Susanne Fromwald
General Secretary

ABOUT DONAU SOJA

Donau Soja is an international, not-for-profit, multi-stakeholder, value-chain, membership-based organisation founded in 2012 to promote a non-GM sustainable protein supply originating in Europe. Headquartered in Vienna, we have regional offices in Serbia, Ukraine, and Moldova.

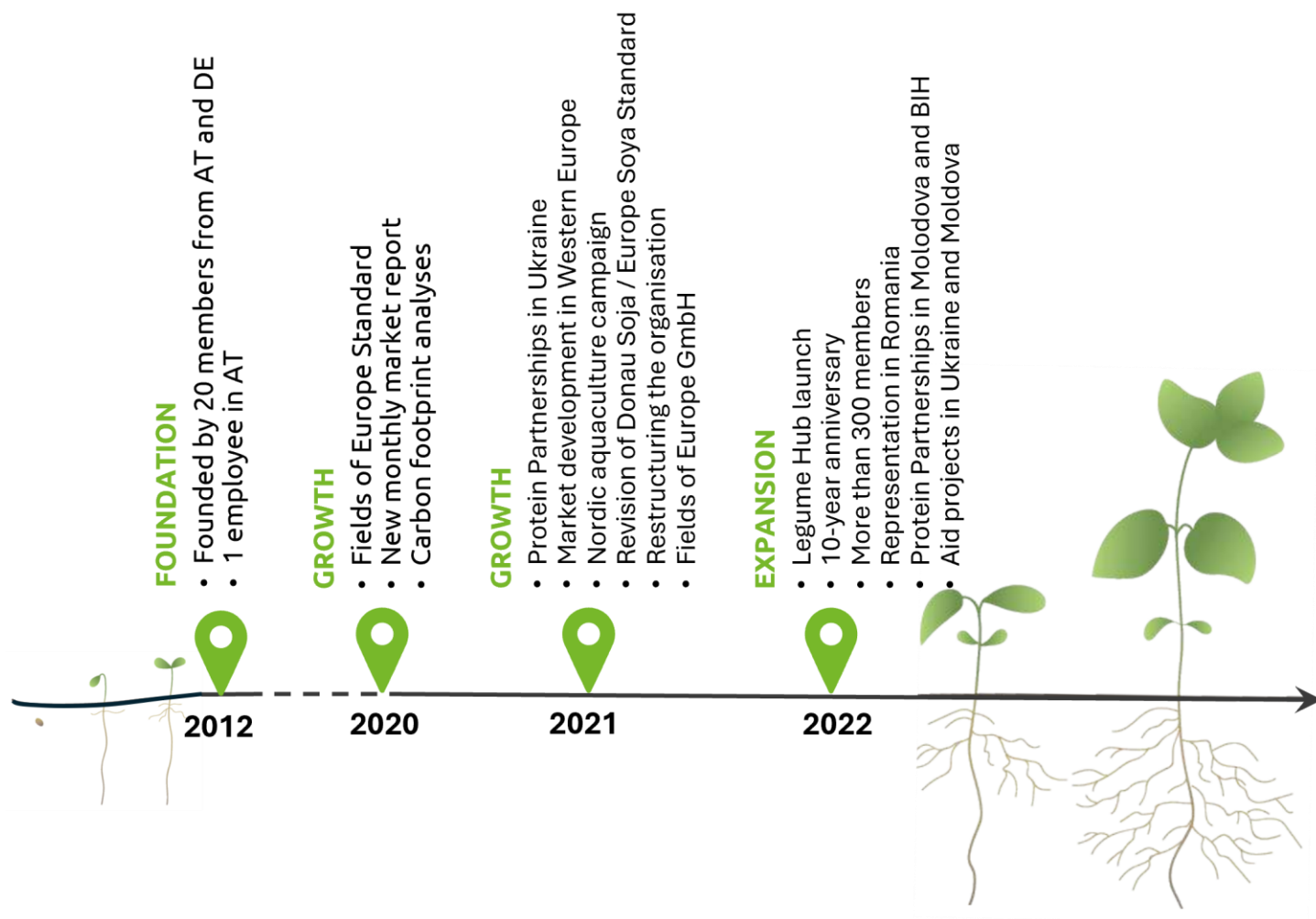
This ambitious initiative is supported by prominent European institutions and organisations. Our 337 members include food retailers, large agricultural traders, animal feed producers, oil mills, numerous processors, and environmental organisations. This diverse membership base is essential to the Donau Soja mission. The initiative also enjoys broad policy support: 15 European governments have endorsed the Donau Soja Declaration, and 19

have supported the Europe Soya Declaration. They recognise the need for added value in the Danube region and the importance of bolstering an independent European supply of plant protein.

Our activities make valuable contributions to ensuring food security and developing sustainable supply chains across the continent. We are committed to sustainability, non-GM farming, and European origin soy. In recent years, we have successfully launched and established our quality and certification standards: Donau Soja, Europe Soya, and the Non-GM Danube Region Standard. These efforts are supported by the Austrian Development Agency (ADA).



THE DONAU SOJA MILESTONES



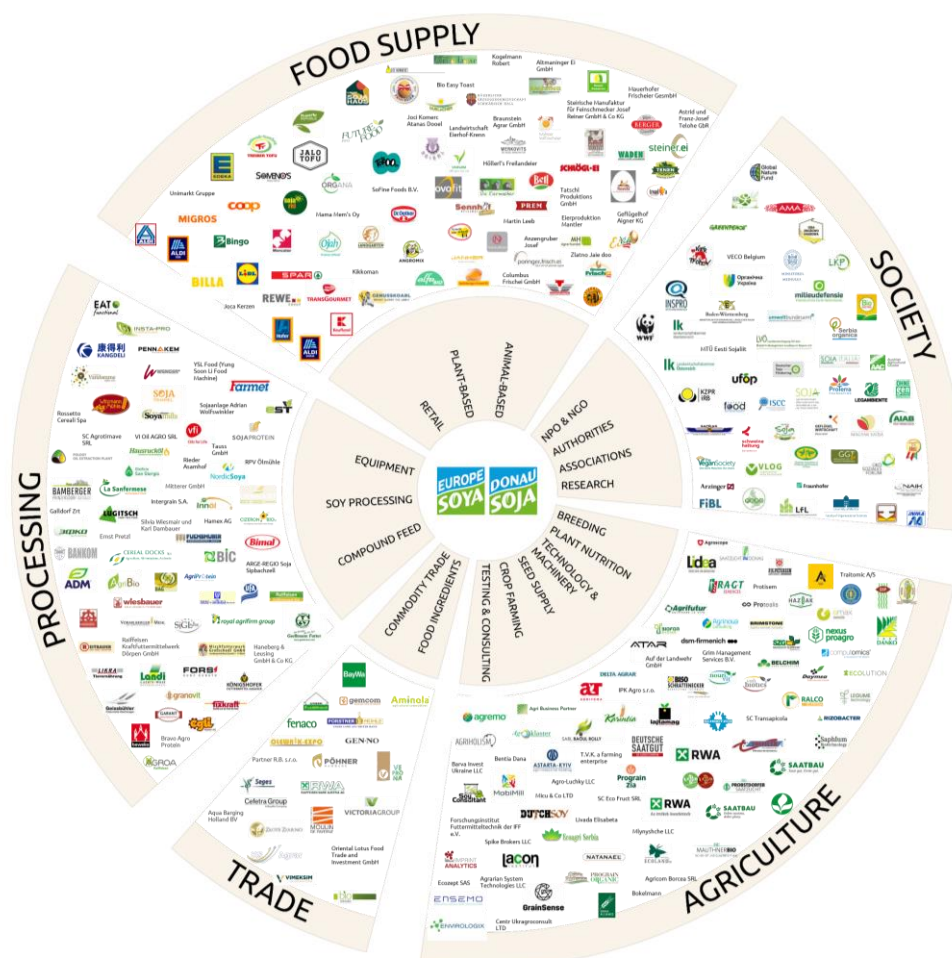
DONAU SOJA IN A NUTSHELL

Organisation	Donau Soja is a European, not-for-profit, multi-stakeholder organisation.			<div>Donau Soja & Europe Soja</div> <div>are leading standards for the European soya sector.</div> <div>1 mln tonnes</div> <div>certified soya beans*</div> <div>>9,000</div> <div>soybean producers*</div> <div>>950</div> <div>certified partners*</div> <div>45</div> <div>primary processors*</div> <div>*in 2023</div> <div><div>✓ non-GM</div><div>✓ sustainable</div><div>✓ European origin</div></div>
Vision	A sustainable, safe & European protein supply			
Members	<div>337</div> <div>members from</div> <div>32</div> <div>countries*</div> <div>*status June 2024</div>			
Vision	A sustainable, safe and European protein supply.			
Mission	Donau Soja supports its partners and members in progressing change to address social, environmental and economic challenges in soya production and consumption. This will increase efficiency, fairness and sustainability in European food and feed protein value chains.			
Activities	<div><div>• Market development</div><div>• Agriculture</div><div>• Research & Innovation</div><div>• Policy</div><div>• Certification</div><div>• B2B meetings</div><div>• Market analyses</div><div>• Protein Partnerships</div></div>			
Offices	<div><div></div><div>Vienna (Austria)</div><div></div><div>Novi Sad (Serbia)</div><div></div><div>Chişinău (Moldova)</div><div></div><div>Kyiv (Ukraine)</div></div>			

OUR MEMBERS

The Donau Soja network is growing steadily and reached a number of **337 Donau Soja Members** in June 2024. We welcomed **46 new members** in 2023 and the first half-year of 2024. While the lion share of our members is located in the DACH region, the regional diversity is noticeably increasing. Our

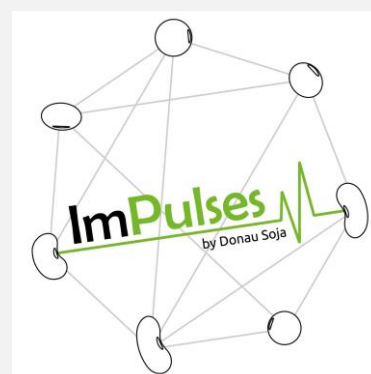
members are now spread over 32 countries across Europe, Asia and America. All members are listed on the [Donau Soja website](#). Self-descriptions by Donau Soja Members were introduced as a new feature on this page in late 2023.



ImPulses

In 2023, Donau Soja introduced a new online meeting format under the name "ImPulses" for its members offering up-to-date market information, bringing members together and offering a platform to present themselves and their latest innovations to the community. In 2023, we hosted six meetings with a total of 294 participants:

- 27 February: Soya market update & member presentation: Grainsense
- 24 April: Market update & organic soya developments
- 26 June: Market update & sustainable soy for egg production
- 28 August: Soil and plant health
- 23 October: Soybean harvest – regional perspectives
- 11 December: Market update & field trials – review 2023



PARTNERING WITH THE AUSTRIAN DEVELOPMENT AGENCY

A review of nine years promoting sustainable development



Austria's longstanding relations with Eastern Europe are evident in its role as an important foreign investor in countries like Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, Moldova, and Ukraine. While the collaboration between the Austrian Development Agency (ADA) and Donau Soja is more recent, it has already spanned nine successful years, fostering sustainable development. This Strategic Partnership has engaged 15,000 farmers and hundreds of business organisations, yielding significant advancements in achieving a sustainable protein supply.

The Donau Soja-ADA cooperation began with analyses conducted during the Inception Phase (2015-2016), which confirmed the critical role of the food and agriculture sector in promoting economic development and reducing poverty in Serbia, Ukraine, Moldova, and Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH). Based on these findings, the Strategic Partnership Programme was designed to empower stakeholders by overcoming barriers such as insufficient knowledge, information, and skills. This initiative aimed to enhance their capacity to adapt to environmental changes, implement sustainable agricultural practices, and participate in certified supply chains.

Strategic Partnership

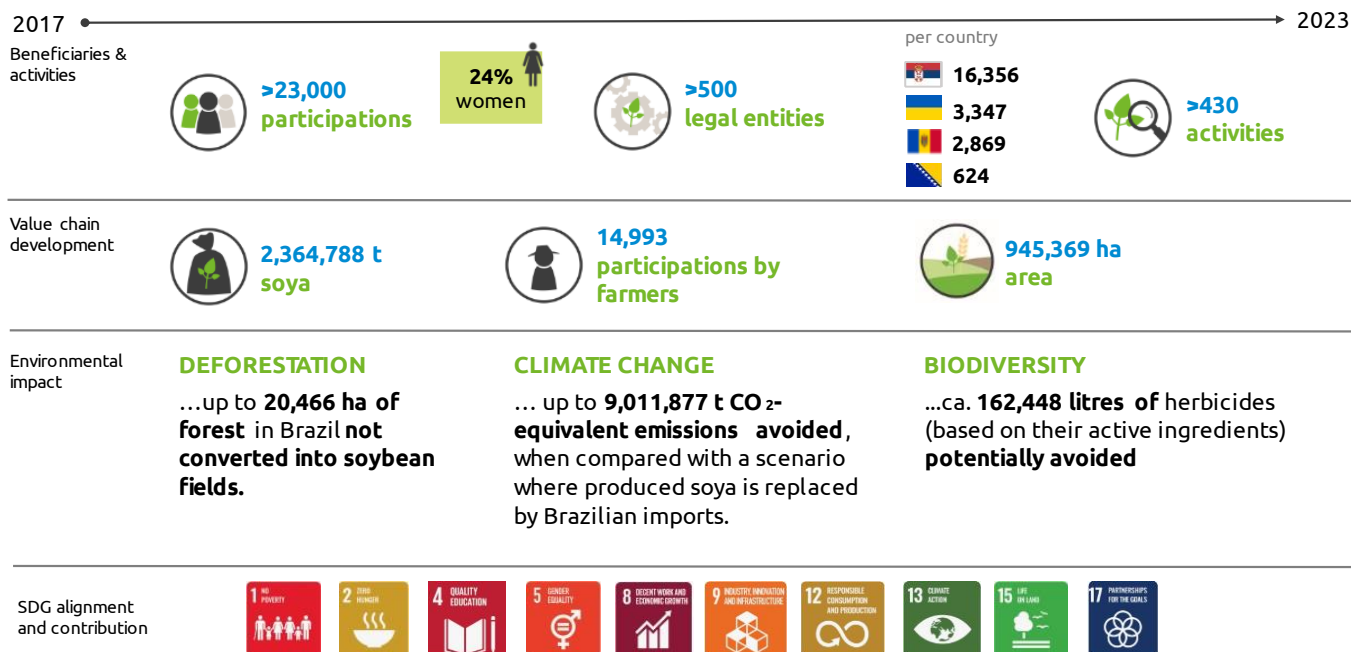
By the end of February 2024, the seven-year Strategic Partnership project concluded with significant progress in promoting non-GM and



The Austrian Development Agency (ADA) is the operational unit of Austrian Development Cooperation, that implements programmes and projects together with public institutions, civil society organisations as well as enterprises. Austrian Development Cooperation supports countries in Africa, Asia, South Eastern and Eastern Europe in their sustainable development based on plans and strategies developed by the Federal Ministry for European and International Affairs.

So far, within cooperation with ADA, Donau Soja has received €6.5 million in grant support and has successfully implemented projects worth €11 million, including the Inception Phase, DevRAM Project, and Strategic Partnership.

ADA Strategic Partnership - key results



sustainable soybean production, improving value chains, and benefiting local producers and companies in Ukraine, Moldova, Serbia, and Bosnia & Herzegovina. With a budget of €9 million, evenly split between an ADA grant and Donau Soja's own contribution, this programme has had a profound impact on soybean value chains and beneficiaries in these countries.

The Strategic Partnership encompassed numerous activities implemented concurrently in critical areas, including knowledge and innovation dissemination related to sustainable agricultural production, market and supply development, awareness raising, quality management and certification, and activities aimed at improving the policy and business environment in the target countries. As a result of this successful collaboration, over 2.3 million tonnes of sustainably produced non-GM soybeans have been cultivated in the target countries. Throughout the project's duration, over 23,000 participations by beneficiaries participated, with women making up 24% of the registered participants. Over 500 legal entities have been involved in various activities, providing valuable opportunities and empowering

individuals at every level of the soybean value chain. 2.3 million tonnes were produced on nearly 1 million hectares of sustainably managed land, involving about 15,000 participations by farmers and 160 certified collectors and processors. During the Strategic Partnership Programme period (2017-2021), soybean acreage increased by 18% in Serbia, 40% in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and yields (t/ha) in Ukraine increased by 34%.

Beyond value chain development and economic impact, these remarkable achievements in sustainable soybean production have had significant environmental benefits as well. The production of 2.3 million tonnes of sustainably produced soybeans resulted in a reduction of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by up to 9 million tonnes of carbon dioxide (CO₂)-eq, when compared to a scenario where the total volume is imported from Brazil. Additionally, it has helped in avoiding forest loss and decreased herbicide usage. Our programme aligns with several Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) too, as can be seen above.



The Institute of Field and Vegetable Crops Novi Sad, the National Institute of the Republic of Serbia, has been a member of the European Donau Soja Association since its establishment. As a member of the Donau Soja Scientific Advisory Board, we contribute to further development of the science of soybeans and participated in the organization of the World Soybean Conference in Vienna in 2023. Within the framework of the Strategic Partnership Project with ADA, over the past 7 years, we have been partners and beneficiaries through various activities such as setting up trials, participating in field days, training sessions for agricultural producers, and other important activities that contribute to knowledge transfer, innovation, and the promotion of soybeans in our country and region. Through our collaboration, we have established significant contacts and exchanged knowledge and experiences that have contributed to the improvement of soybean and legume production in Serbia.

Dr. Vuk Djordjevic

Head of the Legumes Department
Institute of Field and Vegetable Crops Novi Sad,
Serbia

"As a small agricultural producer, accessing leading cultivation technologies and direct sales markets in Europe is crucial. Thanks to our collaboration with Donau Soja, we gained access to both. Their expertise and networking events helped us establish contacts and promote our company in the EU market. We're eager to continue working with the Association to elevate Ukrainian agricultural production.."

Yulianna Bilodedenko,
FEA Director, STOV "Alians-Bekon"
Ukraine





"I returned from Spain to my homeland and decided to devote myself entirely to farming and introduced soybean in the crop rotation starting with 30 ha and having irrigation. Soya acts as a soil doctor, providing 50% of the total nitrogen requirement. Thus, the corn cultivated next year on the land where the soybean was previously harvested is provided with the necessary nutrients and by obtaining certification according to the Donau Soja Standard, there is the possibility of exporting soybean to EU countries."

Stanislav Bizgan,
Puhăceni village, Anenii Noi district,
Moldova

"BIMAL Group is a leader in the processing and procurement of oilseeds in Bosnia and Herzegovina and the region, collaborating with many local farmers. BIMAL is the first company with a Non-GMO certificate. As part of the ADA Strategic Partnership Programme, we celebrated this success through a significant joint Non-GMO campaign. Our campaign was supported by key institutions in the country, such as the Ministry of Foreign Trade, the Ministry of Agriculture of both the Federation and Republic of Srpska, and the Food Safety Agency, thereby highlighting the significance of our joint project. The Non-GMO label distinguishes our product in terms of quality and enables our consumers to have right to informed choice."

Nataša Pucar,
Director of Corporate Communications, HR &
IT, STUDEN & CO Holding (owner of BIMAL
Group, Bosnia and Herzegovina)



STRATEGIC APPROACH TO IMPACT: OUR THEORY OF CHANGE

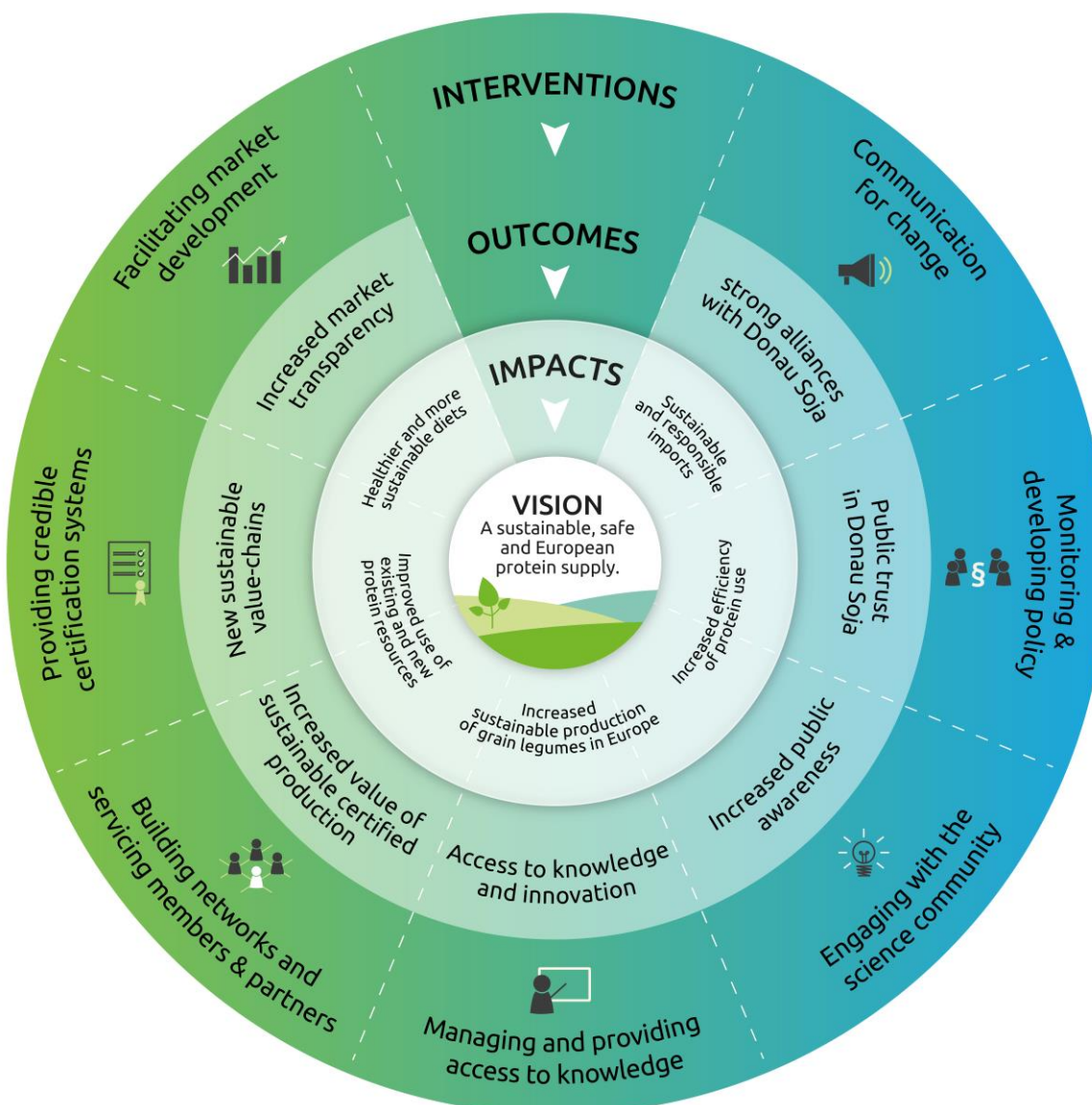
In 2023, Donau Soja developed and introduced its Theory of Change (ToC) – a comprehensive document that illustrates how Donau Soja's vision of a safe and sustainable European protein supply is pursued, how key tasks are prioritised, and which structures are emphasised. The ToC serves as a dynamic roadmap, envisioning the positive impact we strive to create globally. It details our contributions to social, environmental, and economic change, mapping out Donau Soja's core activities and how we anticipate these will lead to

desired outcomes, ultimately fostering broader change.

This approach clarifies the connection between Donau Soja's activities and the achievement of long-term goals, enhancing our planning and prioritisation efforts towards a sustainable, safe, and European protein supply. It also improves our evaluation processes by identifying the outcomes that are most critical for achieving our long-term objectives.



DONAU SOJA'S THEORY OF CHANGE



OUR CONTRIBUTION TO THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

The United Nations established 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to be achieved by 2030. Each goal has specific targets that contribute to achieving the overarching objectives. In total, there are 169 targets associated with the 17 SDGs. Donau Soja's comprehensive approach is contributing to several of these SDGs, evidenced by our SDG report published last year. Donau Soja's impact on the environmental, social, and economic challenges in soya production and consumption

was assessed. The assessment identified that 79 out of the 169 targets are directly or indirectly addressed by Donau Soja's activities. This corresponds to approximately 47%. Notably, SDG 2 "Zero Hunger", SDG 15 "Life on Land", and SDG 17 "Partnerships for the Goals" have been deemed especially important for the Donau Soja Organisation. The results were published in the [Donau Soja SDG report](#).

Overview of Donau Sojas contribution to the SDGs



Donau Soja Organisation contributes to all 17 SDGs and 47% of the 169 targets.

Figure 6: Overview of Donau Sojas contribution to the SDGs

- 01 No Poverty
- 02 Zero Hunger
- 03 Good Health and Well-being
- 04 Quality Education
- 05 Gender Equality
- 06 Clean Water and Sanitation
- 07 Affordable and Clean Energy
- 08 Decent Work and Economic Growth
- 09 Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure

- 10 Reduced Inequalities
- 11 Sustainable Cities and Communities
- 12 Responsible Consumption and Production
- 13 Climate Action
- 14 Life Below Water
- 15 Life on Land
- 16 Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions
- 17 Partnerships to achieve the Goals

SOYBEAN MARKETS IN 2023 – A RECAP

The availability of non-GM and regional soya shows a great improvement in Europe. Soya production in Europe reached an all-time high in 2023, and this growth is expected to continue in 2024 and the following years.

Several factors have driven the growth in soya cultivation in Europe:

- Favourable margins for soya producers compared to competing crops like maize;
- Persistently high fertiliser and energy prices;
- Subsidy programmes under the EU Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) for nitrogen-fixing crops (in select countries);
- Increasing demand for plant proteins, along with deforestation-free and regional soya raw materials;
- The [DG AGRI's mid-term outlook](#) attributes the growth to an increase in GMO-free labelled products.

European soybean production in 2023

	Area (ha)	Output (t)
Austria	87,000	270,242
Croatia	90,000	230,000
Czechia	26,510	65,000
France	160,000	440,000
Germany	44,800	140,000
Hungary	59,000	177,240
Italy	320,000	993,635
Moldova	17,000	49,800
Romania	157,200	340,000
Russia*	2,058,000	4,000,000
Serbia	150,000	400,000
Slovakia	49,000	127,543
Ukraine	1,811,000	4,750,000
EU-27	1,056,510	2,906,660
Europe	5,101,610	12,130,460

* only European part of Russia

Source: Donau Soja

Results 2023

Total soya output **in Europe** reached 12.1 million t in 2023, marking a significant 23.1% increase over the previous year. The three main soya producers in Europe (Ukraine, Russia, and the EU) all saw record outputs this season.

Harvests also surged in the EU-27, with an increase of 740,000 tonnes (+31.7%) in 2023. Although the acreage remained constant compared to 2022, the EU harvested a record 3.0 million tonnes of soybeans in autumn 2023, up by 33% compared to 2022. This substantial yield was largely due to favourable weather conditions. The largest soya producers in the EU are Italy (993,000 tonnes), followed by France (440,000 tonnes), Romania (340,000 tonnes), and Austria (270,000 tonnes). All soya produced in the EU is non-GM.

Forecast 2024

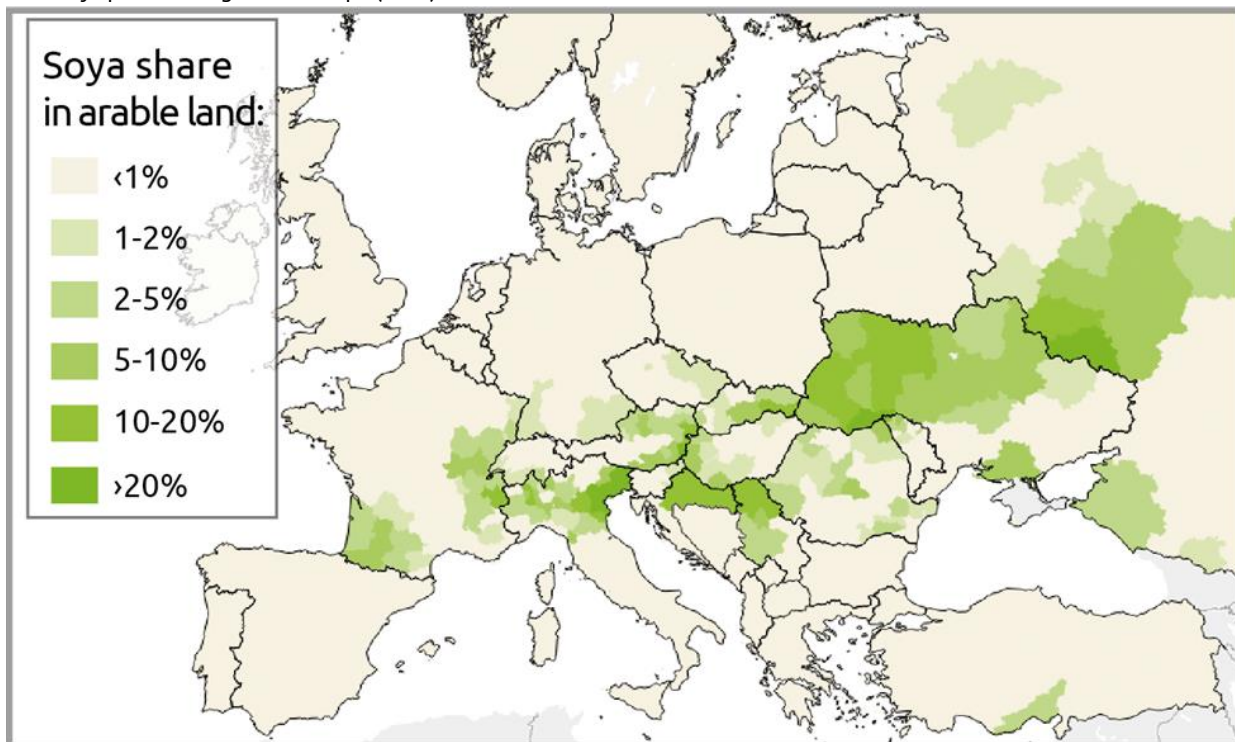
The soya cultivation area in Europe is projected to grow by 14% in 2024, reaching an all-time high of 5.8 million hectares. This marks the fourth consecutive year of expansion on the continent. Key soya producers (Ukraine, Russia, and the EU) are expected to increase their cultivation areas. Output is anticipated to reach a new record of 13 million t in 2024, a 7% increase over the previous season.

Additional factors encouraging farmers to grow more soya in 2024 include:

- Positive experiences with high soya yields in the 2023 harvest;
- Wet weather during autumn and winter delaying or preventing winter crop sowings, leading some fields to be used for spring crops such as soya.

The total soya area **in the EU** is expected to grow by 8% in 2024, reaching a record 1.15 million hectares. Early forecasts suggest that soya output in the EU could increase by 5%, reaching a record 3.0 million tonnes in 2024.

Main soya producer regions in Europe (2021):

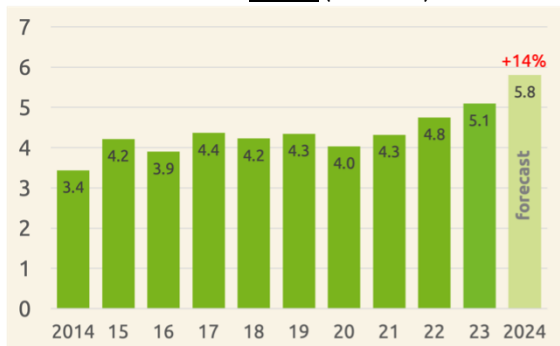


Source: Donau Soja



SOYBEAN IN EUROPE (left)

Area under cultivation in Europe (million ha)

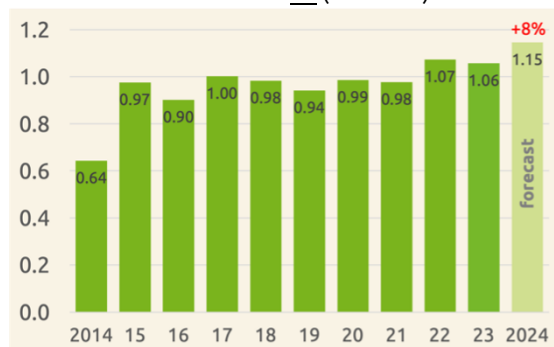


Source: Donau Soja



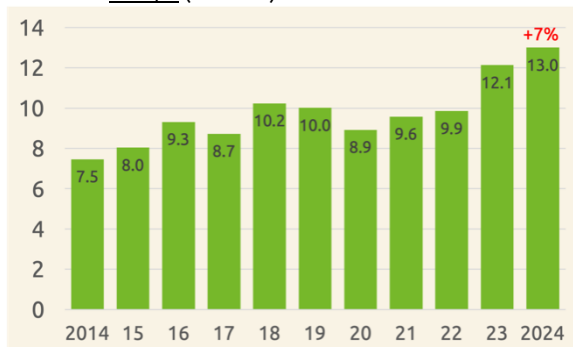
SOYBEAN IN THE EUROPEAN UNION (right)

Area under cultivation in the EU (million ha)



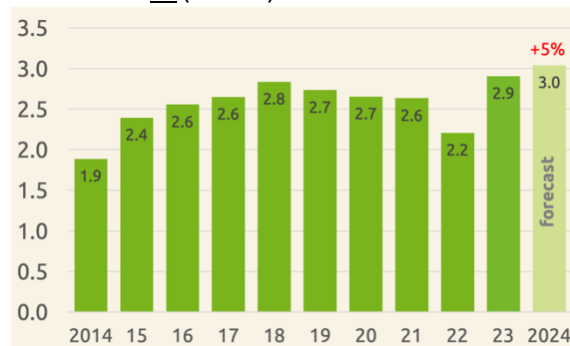
Source: Donau Soja

Harvest in Europe (million t)



Source: Donau Soja

Harvest in the EU (million t)



Source: Donau Soja

FROM FARM TO FORK – 1 MILLION TONNES CERTIFIED DS/ES SOYBEANS

Donau Soja has seen significant progress in the production of certified soya volumes and related projects over the past decade.

During the 2022 and 2023 harvests, over 1 million tonnes of Donau Soja/Europe soybeans were produced by more than 9,000 farmers across 12 countries and certified by 200 collectors. This marks a 48% increase in volumes compared to 2019 and accounts for 10% of the total non-GM soya production in Europe. This solidifies Donau Soja's leading position in soya certification in Europe.

With the European market demanding 40 million tonnes of soya per year and 10 million tonnes produced locally, Donau Soja aims to expand sustainable soya cultivation by increasing its certified volumes to 1.5 million tonnes by 2025.

Certified and labelled products by sector

From soybean processing, soya products are distributed across various sectors. The main consumers of Donau Soja and Europe Soya certified products in Europe are the agricultural sector (feed for laying hens, poultry, and pork) and aquaculture (fish feed). A smaller but steadily growing share is used in the production of plant-based food products such as tofu and meat alternatives.

In 2023, the aquaculture sector was the leading



10% of European non-GM production is under DS/ES certification



1 million tonnes of certified DS/ES soybeans from 12 countries after harvest 2023



Over **200 collectors** in the system



Over **950 certified partners**



14 crushers with DS/ES/non-GM Danube Region Standard certification + **31 smaller processors**

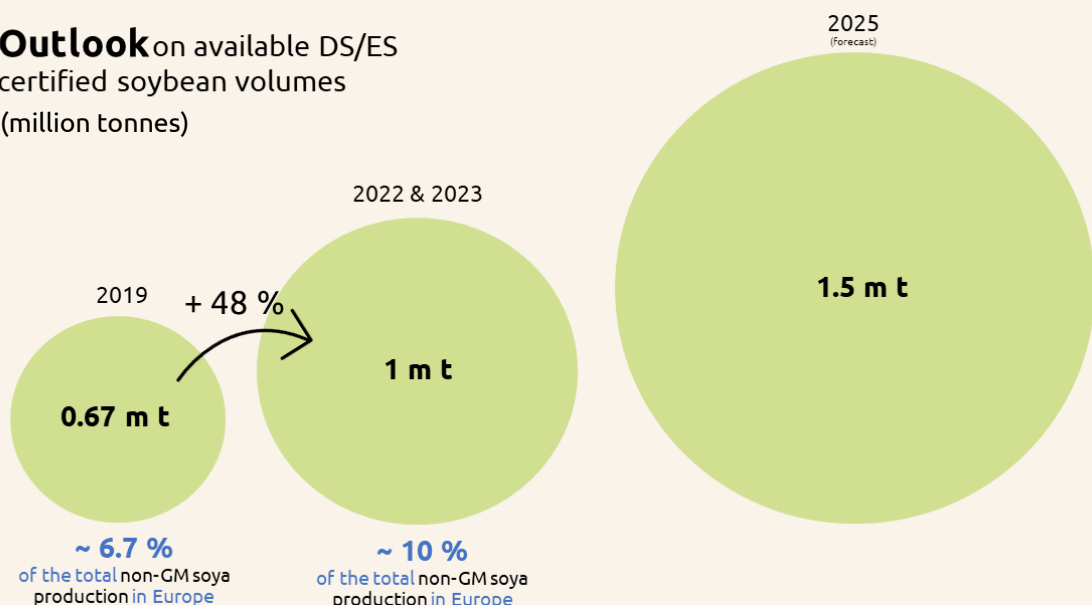


Over **9,000 soybean producers** in our system

market for DS/ES-certified soybean products, primarily for fish feeding in northern Europe, where the salmon industry leads in sustainable fish production. Additionally, there was growing interest from the Mediterranean fish feed sector for using DS/ES soybean products in diets for seabass and seabream, creating new market opportunities for 2024 and beyond.

In addition to the stable market uptake of certified volumes in livestock feed in the DACH region, new

Outlook on available DS/ES certified soybean volumes (million tonnes)



markets are emerging for animal feed based on Europe Soya diets in Spain, Portugal, and Denmark. In 2023, **thirteen retailers** offered certified and labelled Donau Soja, Europe Soya, and non-GM Danube Region standard products across Europe. Alongside Donau Soja, retail chains and major food brands are helping to establish reliable, non-GM,

sustainable soya-certified supply chains from Europe for Europe. Prominent labelling helps consumers make sustainable purchasing decisions at the point of sale.

ANIMAL-BASED PRODUCTS WITH “FED WITH DONAU SOJA / EUROPE SOYA” LOGO



Animal-based products are labelled with the “fed with Donau Soja / fed with Europe Soya” label. The best-known Donau Soja labelling project is the **Austrian egg sector**, that changed to Donau Soja feeding for laying hens in 2013. 2023 marks an anniversary – for 10 over years practically all shell eggs sold through the Austrian food retail chains have been marked with the “fed with Donau Soja” label on pack – ensuring a transparent and traceable supply chain according to the Donau Soja standard.

Continuing support and activities for the German market led to several new egg projects in Germany during the last years. In Lower Saxony, **Lidl Germany** launched Donau Soja labelled eggs in summer 2022. Beginning of 2024 the success in this region continued with Europe Soya eggs offered by **Penny**. **McDonald’s** also decided for a value-added and sustainable supply chain in the Quick-Service-Restaurant business. McDonald's has been using Donau soya egg products for its breakfast menu since 2016 and there was a major relaunch with new products in 2024.

Lidl Eggs - Lower Saxony

Since summer 2022, LIDL Germany offers DS labelled eggs from DS Member, Waden GmbH in LIDL stores in Lower Saxony.



McDonald’s Germany has been using DS/ES certified egg products from DS Member ovofit Eiprodukte GmbH in its breakfast product range since 2016. In April 2024 there was a big relaunch of the breakfast assortment, offering new products.



Penny Eggs - Lower Saxony

ES labelled eggs have been launched in **PENNY** stores in Lower Saxony in **April 2024**. **Columbus Frischei GmbH**, a DS Member is supplying this product.



Since 2013, the **Austrian egg sector** changed to Donau Soja certified feed. Practically all eggs sold through the Austrian food retail chains are fed with Donau Soja.



PLANT-BASED PRODUCTS WITH “DONAU SOJA / EUROPE SOYA” LOGO

The market for certification and labelling in the plant-based food sector is becoming increasingly attractive and has proven to be a promising future market for the Donau Soja Organisation. Soybeans from Serbia and Ukraine play a key role in many of these labelling programmes.

In 2023, **Lidl** expanded its range of vegan, Donau Soja-certified products by introducing Donau Soja-labelled tofu and soya-based spreads under the brand "**Vemondo**". This product line was developed in collaboration with the Slovakian

company AlfaBio, which processes soybeans from Ukraine.

There was also a geographical expansion of labelled soybean chunks offered by **Aldi Nord** and **Aldi Süd**. For these products, Serbian Europe Soya non-GM quality SPC is processed into its final form by **Ojah** in the Netherlands. The final product is packaged by **PFG Future Food GmbH**. This success continued with the launch of two Europe Soya-labelled plant-based soya burgers in Germany at the beginning of 2024.

Outlook: new trends and initiatives

At Donau Soja, we anticipate significant growth in our market development activities, particularly with Europe Soya soybeans supporting large-scale feeding projects across Europe. Donau Soja has tremendous potential to expand into more physical projects and assist companies in meeting the requirements of upcoming EU regulations, such as the EU Deforestation Regulation (EUDR) and Corporate Sustainability Directives (CSRD, CSDDD). Donau Soja serves as a reliable partner, helping companies navigate these requirements and facilitating their sustainable transition and regulatory readiness.

Our multi-crop approach, especially in the plant-based food market, highlights new opportunities for incorporating other plant-based proteins like yellow peas, chickpeas, and fava beans. With this diversified strategy, we can capitalise on emerging markets, offering a promising outlook for 2024 and beyond.



DONAU SOJA EVENTS SUPPORTING MARKETS IN EUROPE

Non-GMO Summit 2023

200 industry representatives from 19 countries and four continents - from farming and processing to food retailing - gathered in Frankfurt on 9-10 May to show their support for non-GMO and deforestation-free feed. The conference was organised by the main trade associations of the non-GMO market: Verband Lebensmittel ohne Gentechnik (VLOG), ARGE Gentechnik-frei, Donau Soja, the European Non-GMO Industry Association (ENGA) and the ProTerra Foundation.



Organised by



In her welcome address, State Secretary Silvia Bender of the German Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture stressed the importance of freedom of choice and transparency, which is only made possible by labels such as "Ohne Gentechnik" and Donau Soja.

At this event, Donau Soja demonstrated the sufficient availability of certified, non-GMO, deforestation-free soya from Europe for Europe, in particular through the support of the Donau Soja Protein Partnership Programmes in Ukraine.



Spotlight on soya in Germany

Together with the German Soybean Association (Deutscher Sojafördererring), Donau Soja co-organised the Soya Roadshow 2023 through Baden-Württemberg (11-12 July). This event brought together actors from the entire soya value chain as well as representatives from ministries and specialised journalists, to explore together the potential of soya cultivation and processing in the region and beyond.

An international group of retailers explores the soya value chain in Austria and Germany

Following on a meeting of the Retail Soy Group (RSG) in the Donau Soja office, we hosted RSG delegates on 6-7 June for an excursion to Donau Soja certified farms and companies in Austria and Germany (Fixkraft, VFI, Gustino farmer and ADM Straubing). Retailers gained first-hand insights into the feasibility, potential and sustainability of well-functioning local soya value chains.



PROTEIN PARTNERSHIPS

A programme to increase sustainable non-GM soya cultivation in Europe for Europe

In 2019, Donau Soja launched the Protein Partnership Programme to boost sustainable soya production in Europe for Europe, and to support the development of sustainable supply chains. The programme focusses on the early stages of the value chain, including soya cultivation and the certification of farmers and primary collectors. Often, it is the international/DACH food retail sector that aims to make a positive impact and protect the climate by reducing its soya-related CO₂ footprint.

The partnership programme funds and organises hands-on training for farmers and participation in field trials in partner countries, under the umbrella of the **Donau Soja Academy**.

In 2023, the following activities were implemented in Croatia, Serbia, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Moldova, and Ukraine:

- Knowledge transfer and exchange activities for farmers, tailored to local contexts, on sustainable non-GM soya production;
- Field trials and field day events in collaboration with scientific institutions;
- Support for farmers, cooperatives, and companies in implementing Donau Soja/Europe Soya standards and certification;

- Market development and value chain support, particularly for Ukrainian partners at international commodity exchanges.

In 2023, the partnership projects supported 73 partners in growing their soybeans according to Donau Soja/Europe Soya standards. Both they and their first collection points benefited from free certification as part of the partnership. The initial stage of the value chain is sustainably certified, allowing traders and processors to access these sustainably produced, non-GM European soybeans. The more sustainably produced beans available, the lower the cost of segregation, making it easier to build physical supply chains from field to fork—a win-win for all involved.

Over the years, the Protein Partnerships programme has become a success, with partners, mainly from the retail sector, investing upfront in sustainable soya cultivation to offset non-sustainable soya volumes in their value chains.

In 2023, the production of 492,000 certified tonnes was sponsored by the companies listed below, resulting in a total income of €1.7 million.

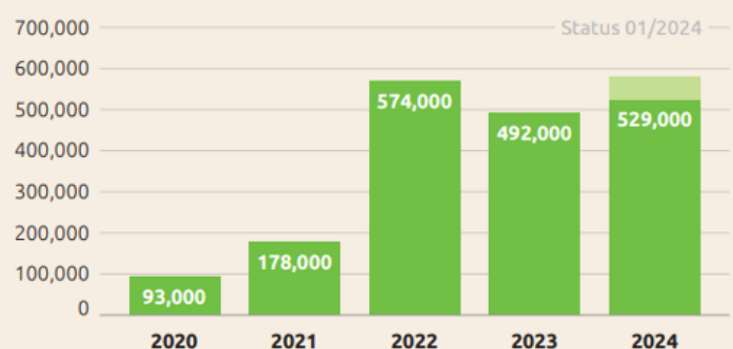
Sponsors in 2023:



Volumes sold in 2023:

492,000 tonnes created an income of 1.7 million Euro.

Protein Partnership volumes, tonnes





Protein Partnership countries and partners in 2023 / development since 2019.

2019/2020

The Programme has started in **Serbia** and **Croatia**

2021

Ukrainian partners joined the Programme

2022

New partners from **Moldova** and **Bosnia-Herzegovina** joined the Programme

2023

Continuation of partnership projects in all **5 countries**

New Donau Soja Book & Claim Programme:

The EUDR mandates deforestation-free soya only (excluding conversion-free and other sustainability issues) after 30 December 2024, for both soya imported into and grown in the EU. As a result of this and the QS Soja plus module requirements in Germany, we launched the Book & Claim (B&C) programme in 2023 as a new product line of the Protein Partnerships. This initiative complements the physical flow of deforestation-free soya with conversion-free and responsible B&C volumes.

Why choose a European B&C Programme?

- Reduce import dependence: Support the growth of sustainable soya cultivation in

Europe for Europe, encouraging better crop rotation and reducing reliance on non-sustainable imports from overseas. The EU currently has a self-sufficiency rate of only 8%;

- Fair competition: Ensure a level playing field for EU and non-EU farmers by maintaining consistent production conditions both inside and outside the EU (i.e., DS/ES Standards);
- Market readiness: Support the production of significant volumes of responsible, conversion-free non-GM soya that is readily available and easily accessible to traders and crushers in Europe.

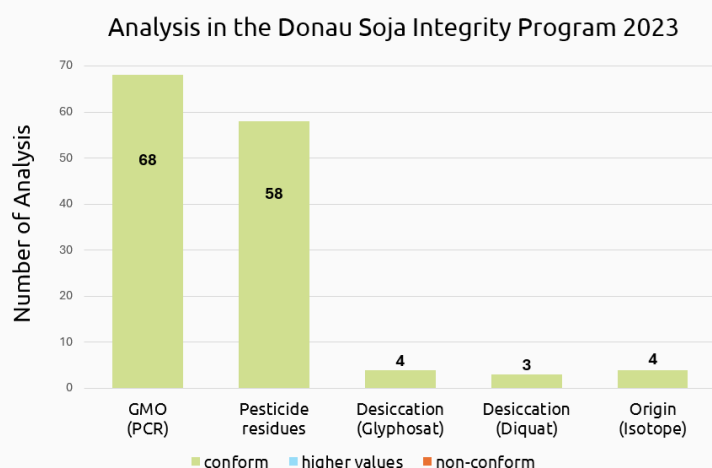
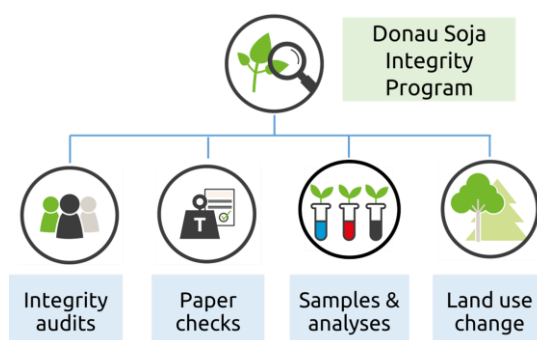


QUALITY MANAGEMENT

Ensuring compliance and improving quality within our certification system

The international quality management team in Vienna, Novi Sad, Kyiv and Chişinău is responsible for the quality assurance of the Donau Soja and Europe Soya (DS/ES) standards. The team manages the approval processes of new certification bodies (CB), conducts annual training courses for the staff of certification bodies, support CBs in new certifications and provides translated documents to CBs as well as certified partners.

Since late 2023, the QM team has been adjusting the IT and control systems to meet the requirements of the EUDR.



Rigorous testing for compliance with our requirements

The Donau Soja Integrity Program ensures compliance with our Donau Soja and Europe Soya Standard and the integrity of the entire system. It includes integrity audits at partners and certification bodies, witness audits and laboratory analyses of soya bean and soya products. In 2023, Donau Soja conducted in total 137 analyses of soybeans and soya products, of which 68 were checked for GMO-contamination, 58 for general pesticide residues, and 7 for desiccants (Glyphosate and Diquat). No non-conformities were detected.

Our work in 2023 at a glance:

13  **Trainings**

150 Trained inspection bodies staff from **15** countries

4 Integrity audits

1 Office audits at certification bodies **19** Companie visits

400 Paper checks (incl. harvest declarations)

20 Donau Soja & Europe Soya certification bodies

ABCERT AG (DE)
 Austria Bio Garantie GmbH / agroVet GmbH (AT)
 Aciter Genelab LLC (UA)
 AGRIZERT Zertifizierungs GmbH (DE)
 Bioinspekt d.o.o. (HR)
 Bureau Veritas d.o.o. (SI)
 Control Union Certifications B.V. (NL)
 CSQA Certificazioni S.R.L. (IT)
 Ecocert Deutschland GmbH (DE)
 FoodChain ID Certification Ltd. (UK)
 Jugoinspekt - Novi Sad d.o.o. (RS)
 LACON GmbH Germany (DE)
 Organic Control System (RS)
 Organic Standard Ltd (UA)
 ProCert Zertifizierungsstelle (CH)
 QAL GmbH (DE)
 SGS Austria Controll - Co. GmbH (AT)
 SGS Beograd d.o.o. (RS)
 SLK GesmbH (AT)
 STC – SIA "Sertifikācijas un testēšanas centrs" (LV)

Status: 10.06.2024

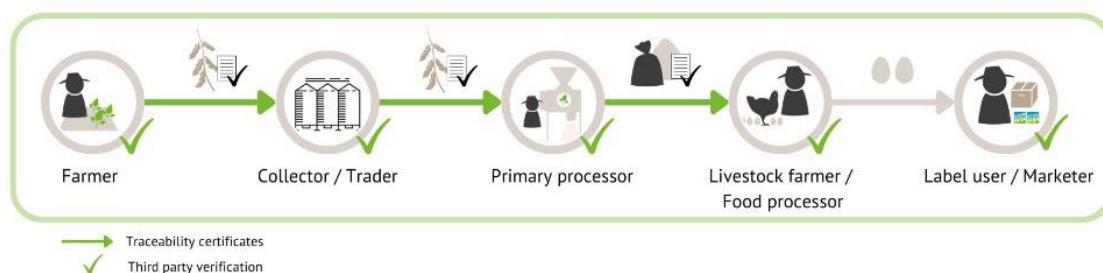
DEVELOPING DONAU SOJA/EUROPA SOYA STANDARDS

















In 2023, Donau Soja began adaptations of the Donau Soja / Europe Soja (DS/ES) standards together with the control and IT system to align with the new requirements introduced by the EU Deforestation Regulation (EUDR), which comes into force on December 31st, 2024. The EUDR aims to curb deforestation across global supply chains by means of improved traceability and accountability for businesses, aspects that are already comprehensively considered by the DS/ES standards. On certain requirements, the Donau Soja Standard is going beyond the new EUDR, mandating conversion-free agriculture with a cut-off date of January 1st, 2008. On top of that, Donau Soja has a comprehensive traceability system covering the supply chain from farm to processor, which also helps to cover the requirements of the

new regulation. Thus, the Donau Soja system is a valuable service to facilitate the implementation of the EUDR for our partners.

Adaptations to RED II

The DS/ES standards were further developed to be open to other crops. The focus was placed on the development of standard requirements that are accepted by the EU Commission to meet the requirements of the Renewable Energy Directive II (RED II). The Donau Soja Biofuel Standard (working title) is intended to give Donau Soja / Europe Soja certified companies the opportunity to increase the value of their products, such as soybean oil.



 <p>Donau Soja / Europe Soja is accepted by FEFAC as one of 18 sustainable sourcing standards.</p> <p>Europe</p>	 <p>Danish Alliance for Responsible Soy recognises Donau Soja / Europe Soja as one of the standards that address the criteria for responsible soy sourcing.</p> <p>Denmark</p>	 <p>The Swedish Platform on Risk Commodities recognises Donau Soja / Europe Soja as a sustainable soy sourcing standard.</p> <p>Sweden</p>	 <p>Swiss Soy Network defines Donau Soja / Europe Soja as one of 5 sustainable sourcing standards.</p> <p>Switzerland</p>	 <p>WWF Germany recommends Donau Soja / Europe Soja as one of 4 sustainable sourcing standards.</p> <p>Germany</p>	 <p>The Aquaculture Stewardship Council (ASC) recognises Donau Soja / Europe Soja as one of three responsible soy sourcing standards.</p> <p>Europe</p>
 <p>UK Roundtable on Sustainable Soya assessed and recommends Donau Soja / Europe Soja as one of 10 sustainable soy sourcing standards.</p> <p>United Kingdom</p>	 <p>Sustainable Agriculture Initiative benchmarked Donau Soja/Europe Soja at FSA Silver Equivalent level.</p> <p>Europe</p>	 <p>Thünen Institut Germany recommends Donau Soja / Europe Soja as one of 6 sustainable soy sourcing standards.</p> <p>Germany</p>	 <p>IUCN recommends Donau Soja / Europe Soja as one of 6 sustainable sourcing standards.</p> <p>The Netherlands</p>	 <p>VLOG recognises Donau Soja / Europe Soja certification as equivalent to VLOG standard certification.</p> <p>Germany</p>	 <p>Donau Soja / Europe Soja are recognised as standard for soybean primary production within the add-on module QS-Soya™.</p> <p>Germany</p>
 <p>Donau Soja / Europe Soja are recognised in the GMP+ FRA MI 5.2 and 5.6 documents for responsible soy and feed as standards for the primary production of soybeans and Chain of Custody.</p> <p>Europe</p>	 <p>Donau Soja / Europe Soja are recognized as standards for primary agricultural production in the pastus+ additional module deforestation-free soy.</p> <p>Austria</p>	 <p>Greenpeace Austria rated Donau Soja as „reliable and sustainable“ product label.</p> <p>Austria</p>	 <p>Donau Soja stands for strictly controlled regional and non-GM soya, with individual criteria going beyond this. There is still room for improvement in pesticide use and crop rotation. Greenpeace rates Donau Soja as trustworthy.*</p> <p>* translated into English by Donau Soja</p>	<p>Stakeholder recognition. The Donau Soja/Europe Soja standards are widely recognised as sustainable sourcing schemes within the agri-food community.</p>	

POLICY DEVELOPMENTS AND MILESTONES IN 2023

A number of EU policies and private initiatives have materialised, targeting supply-chains of the European agri-food system. A key aspect of Donau Soja's work in 2023 involved preparing for and disseminating information about these developments, particularly regarding the EU Deforestation Regulation (EUDR), but also other coming requirements such as Science-Based Targets Initiative (SBTi), EU Sustainability Reporting (CSRD), or the EU Supply Chain Act (CSDDD). Donau Soja prepared tailored information services for various stakeholders of the affected soybean sector:

Donau Soja policy milestones

- Webinar for Ukrainian stakeholders 26th July; organised in collaboration with the Ukrainian Chamber of Commerce and Industry. Topics: new and upcoming requirements of the European agri-food market.
- Donau Soja Webinar "EUDR and beyond" on 17th October; topics: EU Deforestation Regulation, the Science Based Targets initiative (SBTi), Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive (CSRD), and Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive (CSDDD).
- The Donau Soja Organisation was nominated to the European Commission's EUDR Expert Group. The Expert Group focusses on implementing the EUDR, facilitating knowledge exchange between the EU Commission and its members. It is an important body for addressing open questions directly with the EU Commission.
- Volodymyr Pugachov, Executive Director and Regional Director Eastern Europe, Donau Soja, was nominated as the Deputy Head of the Agricultural Committee of the Ukrainian Chamber of Commerce and Trade.
- Leopold Rittler was a speaker at a stakeholder meeting in the EU Parliament on 16 Nov 2023: Protein Strategy - Planting Opportunities for a Sustainable Food System. Hosting MEPs: Francisco Guerreiro, Sylwia Spurek, Bas Eickhout, Tilly Metz (the Greens/EFA).
- Becoming a member of the [European Alliance of Plant-based Foods](#) (EAPF) and [Food for Biodiversity](#) (Germany) in early 2024.
- Ongoing collaboration with several national and international organisations related to the agri-food industry and in particular to the soya and protein sectors (see below)

Cooperations with sector organisations and participations in stakeholder platforms

DS became a member in 2023 and in early 2024



in alphabetical order



EN SI European National Soya Initiatives



EUDR Expert Group

Forum Nachhaltigere Eiweißfuttermittel



German EUDR Stakeholder Forum



Retail Soy Group



WIRTSCHAFTEN AM LAND



Putting the EU Deforestation Regulation into practice: challenges & opportunities

After the EU Deforestation Regulation (EUDR) entered into force in June 2023, it has become a central topic of discussion for the European soya sector and traders worldwide.

About the EUDR

From 30 December 2024, companies in the EU will have to prove that imported and locally produced soya did not come from deforested land (cut-off date: 2020) and was produced in accordance with the laws of the country of cultivation. More information is available on our website: [EUDR Info+Process - Donau Soja](#).

Donau Sojas' activities

Since September 2023, Donau Soja has been providing various public and exclusive information on the EUDR for its members and partners:

- EUDR presentation at Donau Soja Networking Event in September;
- Webinar “EUDR and beyond” on 17 October;
- Nomination as a member of the EUDR Expert Group of the European Commission;
- Preparation and distribution of various information documents and direct discussions with Donau Soja members
- Comprehensive and detailed information on the [Donau Soja website](#).

In addition, on 4 April 2024, Donau Soja addressed EU and national government officials to underline its support for the regulation’s objectives and to highlight relevant uncertainties. Adaptations to the Donau Soja and Europe Soya standards were implemented.

Possible outcome scenarios for European soya sector

At the time of drafting this report (June 2024), stakeholders were actively discussing the pros and cons and several possible scenarios for the impact of the EUDR on the European soya sector. Delays by the EC and national authorities in providing implementation details have led to legal uncertainty for stakeholders in the supply chain. At the same time, concerns about additional administrative burdens on farmers have fuelled speculation that soybean growers might be reluctant to continue cultivation in 2025.

A likely scenario is that shorter and more transparent supply chains will more easily fulfil the EUDR requirements (and at a lower cost), potentially placing EU soya cultivation in a better position than imports.



Info webinar for Ukrainian agri-businesses on 26 July 2023. From left to right: **Oleh Yuhnovskyy**, Chairman of the Committee of Agri-Entrepreneurs at the Ukr. CCI, **Gennadiy Chizhikov**, President of the Ukr. Chamber of Commerce & Industry, **Volodymyr Pugachov**, Executive Director, Regional Director Eastern Europe, Donau Soja



Info webinar on 17 October 2023. In light of the upcoming EU Deforestation Regulation (EUDR), Donau Soja hosted the “EUDR and Beyond” webinar together with the Global Nature Fund on October 17, 2023. About 100 interested listeners took part.

NEW PROJECT PROMOTING ADVANTAGES OF ORIGINAL, CERTIFIED NON-GM SEEDS IN UKRAINE

To keep the agricultural system of Ukraine operating under the war, Donau Soja established a project, particularly aimed at the recovery of the non-GM technology on farms, recover the production costs of farms under the condition of limited resources, and increase the volume of non-GM sustainably produced soya in Ukraine.

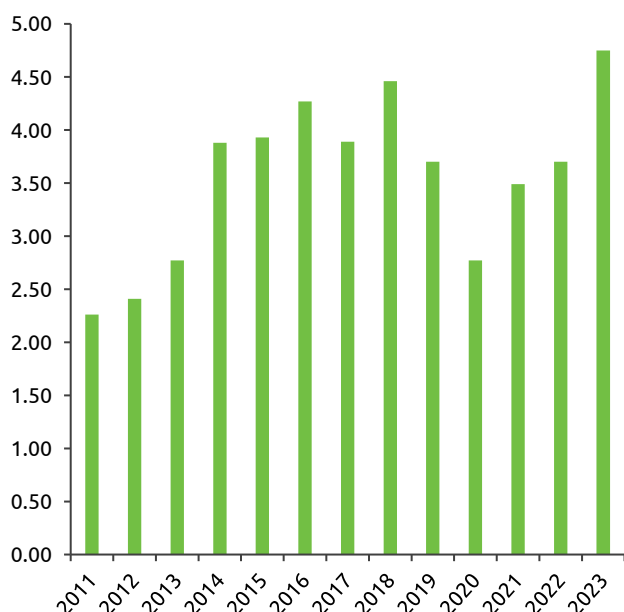
To demonstrate the advantages of original certified non-GM soya seeds, Donau Soja launched the "Soya Farmers Support in Ukraine" (SFSU) project in January 2023. This project enables local farmers, managing up to 1,000 hectares in total, to receive 15% compensation for the purchase of original certified non-GM soya seeds.

The second part of the initiative focusses on preventing GMO contamination, both during cultivation and during the transportation and storage of soybeans. The association provided participants with sets of express tests for qualitative analysis to identify GMOs, helping companies to independently monitor GMOs throughout the entire production process.



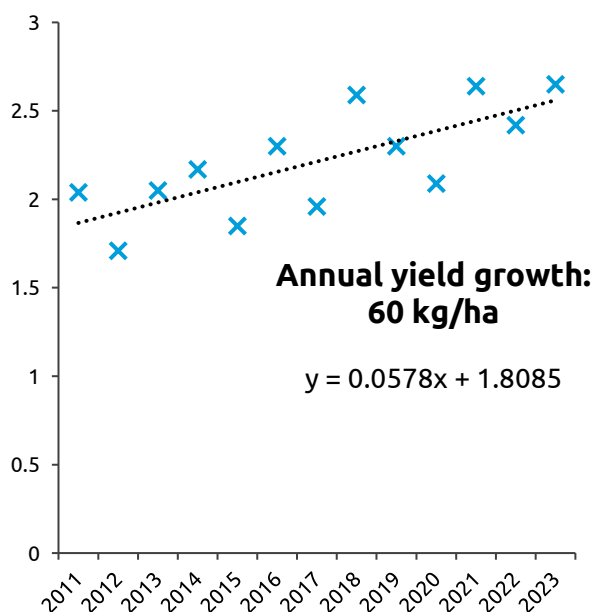
In 2023, the project supported 30 Ukrainian agricultural companies across 11 regions of Ukraine. Following its successful implementation and strong interest from producers, Donau Soja has extended the project into 2024.

Soybean harvest amounts in Ukraine, in million tonnes



Data source: Ministry of Agrarian Policy and Food of Ukraine

Soybean yields in Ukraine, in tonnes/ha



SUPPORTING UKRAINIAN AGRI-BUSINESSES IN TIMES OF WAR

The full-scale Russian war against Ukraine has affected all areas of life and business, including agriculture. As a major agricultural exporter, Ukraine struggles with deliveries via ports due to the Russian occupation of the eastern and southern regions and the threat to cargo ships in the Black Sea. Nearly 4.5 million tonnes of crops (including soya) were exported monthly from Ukraine via ports. Ukraine is self-sufficient in its soya demand, producing 4–5 times more soybeans than are consumed domestically, making the Ukrainian soya industry export-oriented.

Donau Soja established a working group to support Ukrainian agricultural export logistics between Ukraine and the EU. The main goal was to strengthen the ability of Ukrainian producers to supply agricultural products and oilseeds, as well as processed products, to EU-countries: overcoming the bottleneck in export routes brought about by the military blockade of the Black Sea ports.

As part of these activities, Donau Soja supported the organisation of the Ukrainian National Stand, in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and with support from

ADA, in the EU during 2022–2023 to find alternative export routes and promote Ukrainian agricultural production in EU countries:

- 6th Karlsbourse on 13 April 2022 (Prague, Czech Republic);
- 3rd CeMI Commodities Exchange on 6 May 2022 (Milano, Italy);
- 5th Szechenyi Exchange Budapest on 9 June 2022 (Budapest, Hungary);
- 15th International Danube Exchange (Donau Boerse) on 2 September 2022 (Vienna, Austria);
- 7th Prague Karlsbourse on 16 March 2022 (Prague, Czech Republic);
- 3rd International Exhibition Munich Organic on 16 to 17 May 2023 (Munich, Germany);
- 16th International Danube Exchange (Donau Boerse) on 1 September 2023 (Vienna, Austria);
- 63rd European Commodities Exchange on 12 to 13 October 2023 (Warsaw, Poland).



COMMUNICATIONS

The Donau Soja communication team ensures the organisation's communication efforts are well-coordinated and effective for its target audience: the European professional agri-food community and, in specific cases, the general public.

This report summarises the relevant developments and achievements in 2023 and provides a brief outlook for 2024.

Website improvements

A comprehensive overhaul of the Donau Soja website (www.donausoja.org) was implemented in 2023. This has resulted in an improved user experience, with a 70% increase in visits over the last 12 months. Improvements include a new navigation menu, a search function, and adjustments to optimise mobile use and search engine findability (SEO).

Google Ad Grant

In May 2024, Donau Soja received a Google Ad Grant. Through Ad Grants, Google provides non-profits up to \$10,000 USD per month of in-kind search advertising. These ads appear next to search results. This grant will support Donau Soja in its upcoming digital marketing and communication efforts.

Press work

Donau Soja maintains good relationships with a broad network of journalists from newspapers, radio, TV, online media across Europe.

In 2023, Donau Soja...

- made 28 press releases (in 5 languages);
- was covered 653 times in print or online articles in the DACH region, UK, South-Eastern Europe, Moldova, Romania, or in international media;
- held 28 interviews with journalists for print, TV shows, and radio broadcasts;
- organised a press trip with journalists during the 11th World Soybean Research Conference.

Social Media

Professional social media communication is an



The Donau Soja info box includes 14+ info cards and give-aways.

important tool in digital marketing. Donau Soja currently manages eight international and national Facebook, LinkedIn, YouTube, and Instagram channels in Moldova, Ukraine, Serbia, and BiH.

Some of our indicators for 2023:

- +10,500 followers on Facebook (multiple national channels);
- +3,100 followers on LinkedIn (international channel) -- an increase of 22%;
- Over 210 posts on LinkedIn and Facebook respectively;
- 14 videos on YouTube.

Soy cultivation in Europe poised to reach unprecedented heights

May 14, 2024

EUROPE – Recent projections indicate a substantial surge in soy cultivation across Europe in 2024, with anticipated growth reaching between 5-10% culminating in a historic production volume of 5.3-5.7 million tons, according to the latest market report from Donau Soja.

ІЗМАЇЛЬСЬКА РАЙОННА АДМІНІСТРАЦІЯ

Розпочато проєкт компенсації вартості оригінального насіння не-ГМ сої

15%

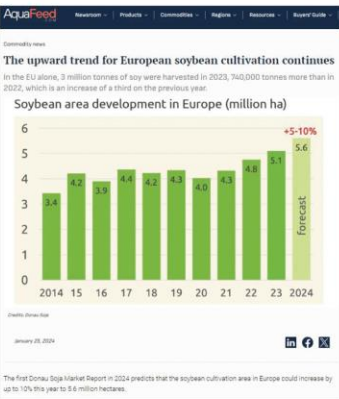
Розпочато проєкт компенсації вартості оригінального насіння не-ГМ сої

В Україні створено єдиний єдиний фонд, який надає грошову компенсацію за оригінальне насіння не-ГМ сої.

Детальніше: [https://www.donau-soja.com/ukr/](#)

Wien ist gerade Soja-Hauptstadt der Welt

Erster Soja-Weltkongress Europas in Wien gestartet. Am Montag startete der erste Weltkongress zum Thema Sojaforschung in Europa (World Soybean Research Conference - WSRC).



Die Sojabohne kommt nach Hause

Erstmals findet der Weltkongress der Sojaforschung in Europa statt. Dabei regnen die Wurzeln des Erfolges der Bohnen bis zum Veranstaltungsort Wien.

150 Jahre ist es her, seit der Weltkongress 1873 nach Wien kam. Damals kamen Experten aus Japan und China, um die Sojabohne in Europa zu etablieren. Heute ist die Sojabohne ein wichtiger Bestandteil der Ernährung in Europa. Der Weltkongress der Sojaforschung in Europa wird am Montag in Wien eröffnet. Er wird von Donau Soja organisiert.

Odgovori na izazove u proizvodnji soje: Genomska selekcija i zakoni

Što se čini strategije EU, radovi se na zakonima regulativama o deforestaciji i Non-GM sertifikatu. Soja je bitna za zemlju u Evropi koja je samostalno u proizvodnji soja - i za mednarodnu.

Donau Soja is a leading company in the soybean market in Europe. It is focused on sustainable production and innovation. The company is working on genetic selection and laws to improve soybean production.

Nachhaltige Eiweißstrategie gefordert

In Wien fand - erstmals in Europa - die Soja-Weltkonferenz statt. Es wurde u.a. über klimafreundliche Sorten, nachhaltige Produktionssysteme und erweiterungsfähige Lieferketten diskutiert.

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Soja hält Einzug in unsere Küche

Liegt die Zukunft von Soja in der direkten Ernährung? Diese Frage stellten sich Experten bei der World Soybean Research Conference in Wien.

International wird das meiste Soja für den Einsatz im Futtermittel angebaut. Gerade ein paar Prozent landen zum direkten menschlichen Verzehr am Tisch. Während solche Gerichte in Asien eine hoch geschätzte Delikatesse sind, hat man hierzulande lange mit dem alternativen Reformhaus-Image gekämpft. „Auf Deutsch ist Soja ein Synonym für Joghurt“, meinte der Präsident des Vereins Donau Soja, Matthias Kröin, bei der Konferenz, die im Austria Center Vienna stattfand. Dabei seien aber auch Sojadrinks, Miso und Sojakaese sehr geschmackvoll. Kröin, der einst eine Molkefabrik in Burgland zu einem Sojatrübe-Verarbeiter umgestaltet, ist überzeugt, dass der Pfad zum Einsatz von Soja als Lebensmittel bei weitem nicht ausgeschöpft ist. „Die Ära des Fleisches geht zu Ende. Der ‚Peak Meat‘ ist erreicht“, sagte Kröin. Mathilde Alexandre von Pro Veg International, einer Ernährungsorganisation, die sich zum Ziel gesetzt hat, bis 2030 40 Prozent des Fleisches mit Soja zu ersetzen.



PRODUCȚIA DE SOIA, ÎN SCADERE. Producătorii folosesc semințe modificate genetic

În ultimii ani, a avut loc o tendință de scădere a producției de soia în România. Producătorii folosesc semințe modificate genetic, ceea ce poate afecta calitatea și cantitatea producției.

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Soja soll den Welt hunger stillen

Die protein- und ölhaltige Sojabohne könnte für eine relativ emissionsarme Ernährung der Weltbevölkerung sorgen. Doch die Bohne darf nicht wenig, reichlich vor allem die Tierhalter, welche die für Fleischproduktion benötigten Futtermittel liefern.

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Predstavljene su Poljoprivrednog i

Cilj je svih zajedničkih aktivnosti promocija, unapređivanje i proširivanje proizvodnje genetski nemodificirane soje kao sirovine za proizvodnju visokokvalitetnih bez GM proizvoda za ishranu životinja i prehranu ljudi.

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dsM-firmenich and Donau Soja partner for environmental impact of feed ingredients

dsM-firmenich and Donau Soja have teamed up to highlight the environmental impact of animal feed and feed ingredients for the animal value chain using the life cycle assessment (LCA) platform Sustell.

Donau Soja is a leading company in the soybean market in Europe. It is focused on sustainable production and innovation. The company is working on genetic selection and laws to improve soybean production.

Heute For Future

Top Videos Heute For Future Heute Backstage Heute Umfragen Österreich Wien Viral

Heute for Future: Kann Soja die Welt retten?

Damit nicht weiterhin Wälder sterben für den Anbau von Soja als Futtermittel, brauchen wir nachhaltigen und regionalen Anbau von Soja ohne Gentechnik in Europa. Dafür setzt sich Matthias Kröin ein. Der Präsident von Donau Soja.

DONAU SOJA ACADEMY – ACTIVITIES IN 2023

The Donau Soja Academy is the cornerstone of the Donau Soja Organisation's educational efforts to promote sustainable agricultural practices for protein crops, particularly soybeans. It engages

directly with a wide range of stakeholders within the agricultural community and operates in several countries in Central and Eastern Europe.

Serbia & Croatia

The main event of 2023 was the 10th anniversary of the Donau Soja demo platform, celebrated with a field day event bringing together a total of 26 partners, 64 field trials and more than 350 participants. For the first time in Croatia, field trials focused on regenerative agriculture were initiated, emphasising soil health, biodiversity, water management and climate change mitigation. Several webinars, comprehensive training sessions and farm study tours were hosted.

Ukraine

Donau Soja Ukraine launched an online learning platform to empower farmers and stakeholders with expert videos, presentations, and recorded training sessions on non-GM soybean cultivation practices. Additionally, the quarterly Soybean Discussion Club covered diverse topics related to sustainable soybean production. Donau Soja Ukraine also participated in local and international agricultural events and conducted field surveys on the progress of soya cultivation ("Donau Soja Crop Tour"). Furthermore, the Agro-Climatic Atlas was developed to provide better insights into the effects of climate change.

Moldova

In Moldova, knowledge transfer activities aimed to support soybean farmers in adopting organic and sustainable non-GM practices. Various field and farm events provided farmers with firsthand knowledge and experience. Additionally, webinars, training sessions, the distribution of the Farmer's Handbook, and articles published on Legume Hub and other respected agricultural media outlets were conducted.

Romania

Romanian agricultural activities included the organisation of a demo field and a field day event, along with the development and dissemination of the Farmers' Handbook, all aimed at promoting sustainable soybean production.



Soya Discussion Club

The Soya Discussion Club, an online workshop featuring experts, scientists, and agricultural influencers from Ukraine and Moldova, was held several times in 2023. It facilitated cross-regional learning and sharing of sustainable soybean best practices among farmers and stakeholders.



Adaptation to climate change in Ukraine

A report by Donau Soja documenting the significant changes in agro-climatic conditions in Ukraine and their implications on soybean farming. After its publication in 2022, Donau Soja distributed it widely in the agri-community in Ukraine. | [Download](#)

Farmer Handbook

A comprehensive guide from Donau Soja to improve the sustainability of soya cultivation in accordance with Donau Soja/Europe Soya standards. The Farmer Handbook complements the Donau Soja Best Practice Manual with examples of good agricultural practice in soil, water, and farm management. In 2023 it was distributed in several CEE countries. | [Download](#)



Soybean processing workshop 8-10 Nov 2023

About 40 farmers, business representatives and scientists attended our 3-day workshop on soybean processing in Braunschweig, Germany. (co-organised together with IFF Braunschweig) The workshop focused on strengthening the understanding of the thermal and hydrothermal treatment of soya, emphasising the crucial interrelationships involved.

THE WORLD SOYBEAN RESEARCH CONFERENCE 11

Soybean research for sustainable development

The global soybean research community gathered in Vienna in June of last year to discuss how they can better contribute to the Sustainable Development Goals.

Vienna hosted the 11th World Soybean Research Conference (WSRC11) from 18 to 23 June 2023. Held in Europe for the first time, the conference commemorated the 150th anniversary of the first significant presentation of soybeans at the 1873 Vienna World Expo. Over 700 attendees, including scientists, food and feed producers, processors, and soybean experts from 51 countries, gathered at the Vienna Austria Centre. The conference, hosted by Donau Soja, was chaired by Professor Johann Vollmann from the University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Vienna (BOKU), and was opened by the Austrian Federal Minister of Agriculture, Forestry, Regions and Water Management, Norbert Totschnig, and the Federal Minister for Climate Action, Environment, Energy, Mobility, Innovation and Technology, Leonore Gewessler.

Soybean research for sustainable development

Soybeans are essential to the global agri-food system. While the crop has been hugely successful, the rapid expansion of soybean production in recent decades has endangered natural ecosystems and contributed to greenhouse gas emissions. Therefore, the primary aim of the 11th World Soybean Research Conference was to steer scientific research towards aligning soybean production with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The importance of soybeans for sustainable development was highlighted by plenary speakers Jingyuan Xia, Director of the Plant Production and Protection Division (NSP) of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, and Professor Istvan Rajcan of the University of Guelph. Dedicated scientific sessions, such as 'Policy and Corporate Social Responsibility' and 'Assessing the Sustainability of Soybean Supply Chains', delved into the environmental impact of soybean cultivation and the roles of governments and corporations.



The World Soybean Research Conference (WSRC) is a global conference series organised since 1975. Its aim is to promote soybean research and to encourage the global soybean community to interact and initiate discussions, aiming to give answer and raise new questions on the globally important crop, fundamental for food and feed supply.

A milestone for Europe

The European soybean research community attended the conference in unprecedented numbers, marking the largest European delegation in WSRC history. With 337 participants and 127 contributions in the form of posters and oral presentations, the conference underscored the continent's increasing importance and interest in this crop.

A resounding success for Donau Soja

For Donau Soja, organising and hosting this major conference was a significant challenge. The aftermath of COVID-19, a war on the European continent, and high inflation rates in countries with traditionally large delegations, such as Brazil and Argentina, created an environment of uncertainty. Despite these challenges, WSRC11 was a resounding success: it provided a global platform for European soy researchers and effectively spotlighted key sustainability issues. The Night of European Soy, a side event at WSRC11, and the Donau Soja Member booth showcased the progress made by European companies in soybean cultivation and usage.

WSRC12

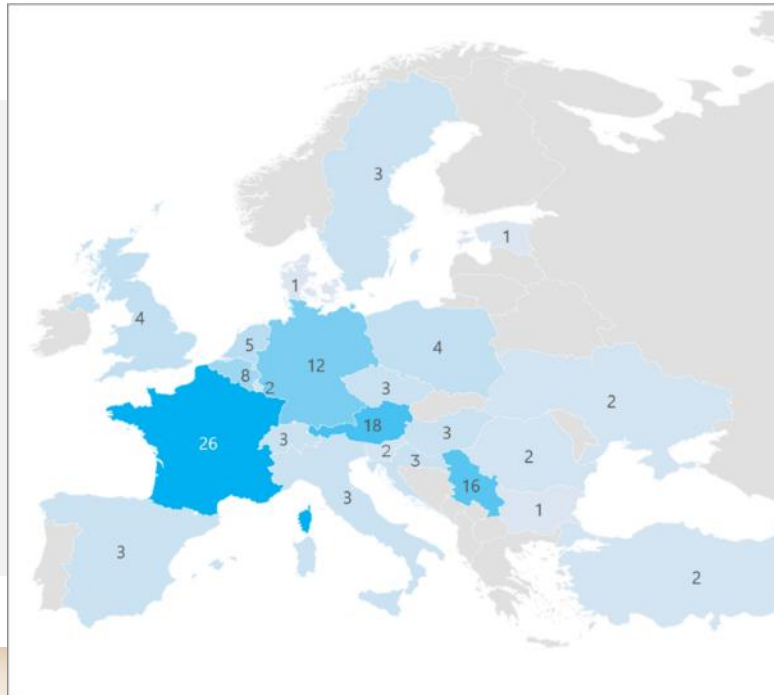
The 12th edition of the WSRC will be organised by ACSOJA and will take place in Rosario, Argentina, in 2027.

Further information

Conference materials are available on the Legume Hub at: www.legumehub.eu/wsrm11-2023.

SELECTION OF HIGHLIGHTS ON THE WSRC 11

127 poster presentations and oral contributions were made at the WSRC11. The WSRC11 hosted the largest number of European soybean scientists at a WSRC ever. With 26 submitted research abstracts, the French research community was the most active.




The Night of European Soy.

This evening event was dedicated to the growing market and diversity of soy-based foods produced in Europe. Around 30 European producers presented their "soy-licious" specialities.

Donau Soja staff and members of the WSRC11 Science Committee



WSRC 11 IN NUMBERS

Conference theme	Soybean research for sustainable development		
Organising Committee			
Chair Scientific Committee	Johann Vollmann, BOKU University, Austria		
Chair Continuing Committee	Ricardo Abdelnoor, Embrapa, Brazil Istvan Rajcan, University of Guelph, Canada (<i>current</i>)		
Participants	>700 attendees	51 from countries	
Programme	6 days	37 sessions	5 side-events
Number of sessions by themes	8 Breeding & genetics 5 Agronomy, physiology, and agrotechnology 1 Business, legal and CSR	6 Food, feed, and nutrition 4 Weeds, diseases, pests, and their management 7 Workshops	
Media	14 press releases in 5 languages 172 media clippings 24 journalists from 11 countries		

The European soybean research community

127

Poster or oral contributions

337

participants

22

countries

68

organisations

28

Donau Soja Members exhibited or sponsored the WSRC11



RESEARCH & INNOVATION PROJECTS

Legume Generation

The goal of this five-year EU-Horizon project is to boost the breeding of major food and feed legume crops in Europe to support the EU Biodiversity and Farm to Fork strategies. The aim is to innovate to the point where newly bred germplasm and cultivars are proven for use on farms, supporting the expansion of legume production: soybean, lupin, pea, lentil, Phaseolus bean, and clover. **Donau Soja** is one of 32 international partners and is proud to work together with some of its members:

Agroscope, Danko, Lidea France, LfL, RAGT Semences, and Saatzeit Gleisdorf.

Project duration:
2023 - 2028

www.legumegeneration.eu



Sonia Pro-Q

SONIA Pro-Q (Soybean Observation using NIRS for Attribute-Depending Prospective Quality Management) supports farms and soy processors in the utilisation of domestic soybeans for the production of animal feed. The two-year project is pioneering real-time process control in the treatment of soybeans. Together with an accompanying feeding trial with fattening pigs and a comprehensive training programme, the project is sustainably strengthening a large number of deforestation-free supply chains in Austria. **Donau Soja** is one of

ten partners in the FFG-funded project (October 2023–September 2025) and is working together with its members EST GmbH, MH Agrarhandel, and Saatbau Linz eGen

Project duration:
2023 - 2025

Further information:
[Legume Hub](#)



Microbiomes4Soy

The aim of this EU-Horizon project is to minimise the environmental impact of soybean production, explore the effects of soybean consumption on the human gut microbiome, and contribute to the development of novel fish feeds for the aquaculture sector. Microbiomes4Soy will develop advanced microbiome-based solutions to improve stress resilience and nutrition of soybean plants and thereby extend the cultivation range in Europe and

beyond. Working together with its members: Agrifutur srl and Plant Republic, **Donau Soja** is one of 17 partners in this five-year project.

Project duration:
2024 - 2028

www.microbiomes4soy.eu



EIT Food Regenerative Agriculture Programme

The beginning of 2024 marked the launch of a collaboration between the Donau Soja Organisation and EIT Food, the world's largest food innovation community. Supported by the [European Institute of Innovation and Technology \(EIT\)](#), a body of the European Union, EIT Food invests in projects, organisations, and individuals that share common goals for a healthy and sustainable food system. Until 2027, Donau Soja, in partnership with EIT Food, will

implement the project titled "[EIT Food-Regenerative Agriculture Programme](#)" in Serbia, supporting farmers in their transition to regenerative agriculture practices.

Project duration:
2024 - 2026



THE LEGUME HUB – EUROPE’S KNOWLEDGE PLATFORM FOR LEGUMES

The Legume Hub (legumehub.eu) provides free access to knowledge, insights, and understanding to support growing and using legumes. It aims to empower everyone interested in the development of legume cropping and use with access to knowledge, insights, and successful practices across value chains—from plant breeding and on-farm activities to processing and consumption.

The Legume Hub is collectively owned by the members of the European Legume Hub Community (established as the European Legume Hub Association). All users involved in the development of legume production and use are invited to join the Legume Hub Community by registering as a member. Donau Soja provides the secretariat for the Legume Hub.

The Legume Hub is

- open and accessible;
- for self-publishing; and
- multi-lingual: English, German, Romanian, Russian, Serbian, and Ukrainian.

Open and free to join:

- Publish your articles, research reports, or videos, or disseminate existing ones.
- Have a project page where all outputs are summarised.
- Each contribution is citable as a scientific or technical publication.

The Legume Hub gives maximum recognition to

- its contributors;
- their projects; and
- their contributions.

Your public profile

Become a contributor and receive a portfolio showcasing all your contributions:

- Articles and reports
- Videos
- Images
- Viewpoints



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AT A GLANCE



266 articles



61 videos



260 contributors



6 languages





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