

# Approach for Sustainable Sourcing of Agricultural Raw Material

## 1. Introduction to METRO Approach for Sustainable Sourcing of Agricultural Raw Materials

*At METRO, we consider ourselves the food company. Our vision is to deliver sustainable food solutions with superior added economic value for independent entrepreneurs. We have made it our goal to lift the food and hospitality sector to a new level. The core of our business is our trusting relationship with our hotel/restaurants/catering and trade customers in 35 countries.*

*We look far ahead, systematically implementing what is required today and translating it into sustainable business models for tomorrow. We embrace our environmental and social responsibility in order to ensure the long-term viability of METRO. We are fully committed to this, as well as to enabling our customers to meet high standards in matters of sustainability. As a platform, we are working jointly with diverse market players such as suppliers, NGO's and governments to set tomorrow's standards.*

*When it comes to sustainable retail and food sourcing, METRO follows a clear vision:*

*"We will become sustainable in everything we do."*

## 2. Overall Policy for Sustainable Sourcing and Environmental Guidelines serves as umbrella

In 2013, METRO introduced a [Policy for Sustainable Sourcing](#) and in 2015, we introduced our [Environmental Guidelines](#). The purpose of these is to serve as an umbrella to cover topics related to sustainability, including

agricultural raw material. The policy and guideline apply to all own brand food and non-food products and cover all steps in our supply chain (Tier1, Tier2 and all prior process steps). Also, we expect branded product suppliers (food and non-food) to act in the same spirit as our policies. Our ambition is to source products responsibly, i.e. in environmental, social and economic terms. These overall policies are elaborated by product and commodity specific guidelines and standards.

### **Focus on categories**

Within our overall Corporate Responsibility strategy, we prioritise

## **3. Meat, poultry and eggs; animal welfare**

### **A. Meat and poultry**

Both sales line of METRO have the issue on their agenda. METRO Cash & Carry strives to provide the greatest possible transparency and are constantly increasing the proportion of meat and eggs from ethical, ecological husbandry within our product range by implementing sustainable purchasing procedures. Sales line Real aims to improve the conditions of animals in production of food and non-food items. Both sales lines have dedicated standards, for example foie gras, live-plucking, mulesing, angora wool from animal cruelty - just to name a few here. At Group Level we are currently working on a meat and poultry sourcing policy. The commitments of [METRO](#)

certain categories of agricultural and raw materials, which are very important for our business and our supply chain. For each of these, we have a dedicated sourcing policy in place or we are currently working on one.

1. Meat, poultry and eggs; animal welfare
2. Soy
3. Fish and seafood
4. Palm oil
5. Pulp and paper
6. Fruit & Vegetables
7. Cocoa
8. Textiles

[Cash & Carry](#) and [Real](#) are available from their websites.

### **B. Eggs**

Regarding eggs, METRO aims to ensure all Own Brand shell eggs and liquid egg products are sourced 100 % cage free by the end of 2022. Furthermore, METRO supports the improvement of farming conditions for laying hens by promoting alternative and more sustainable farming systems, e.g. floor and free-range systems. Our commitment on these topics can be found [here](#).

## 4. Soy

As a global food company, METRO also trades/sells products containing soy and meat and fish from animals fed with soy. We want to make sure that none of the soy that is used for or in the products we trade, is contributing to deforestation or social problems. We have therefore taken actions regarding soy and will continue to do so.

Currently, we are working on a soy procurement policy, emphasizing our further pursuit of sourcing and trading soy containing products that do not contribute to deforestation. For this, we are currently establishing within our network of suppliers, which ones are already working with credited or sustainable soy, and in which way we can improve our supply chain on this topic.

Additional actions that we have already undertaken regarding sustainable soy, are:

- In 2010, METRO signed the Consumer Goods Forum Deforestation Resolution, aiming to achieve zero net deforestation by 2020
- In September 2017, Brazilian and international NGOs, foundations and research institutes launched the 'Cerrado Manifesto', calling for immediate action on halting deforestation in the Brazilian Cerrado region. Global companies including METRO responded positively to that call for action – METRO AG is

one of the founding signatories of the Statement of Support (SoS) for the Cerrado Manifesto, working together with industry partners and NGO's towards zero net deforestation in the Cerrado region in Brazil

- METRO became member of the Roundtable on Responsible Soy (RTRS), enhancing our network on the topic of soy

## 5. Fish and seafood

METRO promotes the long-term protection of fish stocks. We have drawn up a group-wide purchasing [policy for sustainable fish procurement](#) in 2012.

Additionally, as METRO is a signatory of the 2020 Tuna Traceability Declaration convened by the World Economic Forum, a special section on tuna is included in the updated policy. By signing the declaration METRO pledges to adhere to further reaching commitments in the special case of tuna.

To METRO, sustainability along the fish-process chain means:

- Showing regard for the sustainability of natural resources. The focus of METRO's actions is to
- maintain and conserve fish stocks and their habitat
- Fulfilling the needs of current and future customers. The focus of METRO's actions is long range

- protection of fish supplies
- Urging and promoting generally applicable and uniform, internationally recognized standards

To live up to this responsibility, METRO has pledged to breathe life into this procurement policy by undertaking specific activities and steps in dealings with suppliers and producers as well. As part of this procurement policy, METRO has set the following long-range goals:

- Guaranteeing and expanding an environmentally sustainable range of fish that meets customer demand
- Developing and promoting uniform, internationally recognised and sustainable environmental and social standards and labels along the entire value chain of fish (e.g. MSC Label, Global G.A.P Standard, BSCI, etc.)
- Encouraging sustainable fisheries and aquacultures
- Optimising fishing methods
- Optimising the traceability and labelling of fish products
- Optimising procurement and logistics operations
- Working closely with suppliers and producers
- Conducting a regular dialogue with the scientific and political communities

## 6. Palm Oil Purchasing Policy

Palm oil has become one of the most important vegetable oils in the fast-moving consumer goods sector. Palm oil is used in many basic consumables – not only in foods, but also in cosmetics and cleaning agents. A cultivation of oil palms which is not sustainable can have negative effects on the environment and the climate. Deforestation and poor social conditions are two of the disastrous consequences. As part of our sustainability approach and through our membership in the Roundtable on Sustainable Palm oil (RSPO), METRO is committed to increase the use of sustainable palm oil along our value chain, whilst maintaining the highest quality and future availability.

Therefore, in 2013, we introduced our [Palm Oil Purchasing Policy](#). The aim of our Palm Oil Purchasing Policy is to use only certified sustainable palm oil in all our own brands by 2020. This palm oil policy applies to all own brand products containing palm oil delivered to METRO.

## 7. Pulp and Paper

In 2013, METRO issued the Metro Cash & Carry [Sustainable Purchasing of Paper and Wood Products](#), which applies to all Metro Cash & Carry operations and business support functions, across all locations, and to all products purchased and sold by Metro Cash & Carry.

Metro Cash & Carry expects the commitment to Corporate Responsibility also from its partners

during contractual agreement of business relations. In accordance with Metro Cash & Carry's understanding this means:

- A sustainable management system in place, which guarantees sustainable purchasing of timber and paper products, which is also acknowledged and accepted by company stakeholders: government, NGOs (Greenpeace, WWF) and business partners, for instance.
- Transparency along the entire supply chain, including all business units of the company, and the origin from sustainable or well-managed forests of the timber product can be traced back at each level. Economical needs shall be considered as well as ecological needs. These aspects have to be verified on a reliable basis by business partners.
- Third party verification of implemented sustainable purchasing management processes accepted by Metro Cash & Carry, such as:
  - The Forest Steward Ship Council (FSC)
  - Program for the Endorsement of Forest Certification Schemes (PEFC)

## 8. Fruit & Vegetables

We apply the standards by the [Global Food Safety Initiative](#) (Global GAP standards) and have strict guidelines for the use of pesticides in fruit and vegetables production.

## 9. Cocoa

Sales line Real has approved a [Purchasing guideline cocoa](#). The sales line aims for purchasing cocoa for all cocoa-containing own-brand products from certified sources to improve living conditions in producing countries and the protection of the environment, to promote the cultivation of sustainable cocoa, to closely cooperate with suppliers and producers.

## 10. Textiles

As part of its [purchasing guideline on textiles](#) sales line Real has set itself the following long-term goals.

- Improve transparency in the textile chain
- Participation in social initiatives
- Compliance with animal welfare criteria
- Promotion of internationally recognized sustainability standards
  - Increase the share of organic cotton
  - Reduction of the use of plant protection products
  - Reduction of the use of chemicals

- Ensuring resource efficient production (e.g., reduction of water and CO2 consumption)
  - Ensuring minimum social standards
- Close cooperation with suppliers and producers