

Responsible sourcing policy



Corbion is a global leader in sustainable food-ingredient solutions focused on advancing natural preservation and nutrition with science and innovation. By harnessing deep expertise in fermentation and application development, we empower customers to create safe, sustainable, and longer-lasting food products. We preserve what matters.

A significant part of the environmental and social impact in our value chain is upstream of our own operations. To safeguard an overall positive environmental and social impact of our sustainable solutions, we need to ensure our raw materials are sourced responsibly.

Our [Supplier Code](#) explains what we expect from suppliers to support our responsible sourcing commitments. We require all of our raw material suppliers to sign our supplier code to confirm adherence, or demonstrate commitment to our code through their own company policies that embrace the standards included in our code. We assess all of our raw materials and suppliers on potential risks related to human rights and environmental impacts. The risk assessment results in a high, medium, or low score for each raw material/supplier combination. For all high-risk items, mitigation actions will be taken. The risk assessment is updated annually and also conducted for new raw materials or new suppliers.

A sustainable agricultural supply chain is of material importance to our business as we rely on agriculture for our biobased raw materials. Our responsible sourcing strategy focuses on our agricultural raw materials. We focus on raw materials derived from sugarcane, soy, corn, wheat, and palm oil, which represent some 98% of our agricultural-derived raw materials by quantity.

Farming of sugarcane, oil palm and soybeans has been linked to a number of serious social and environmental sustainability risks. These include forced and child labor, hazardous labor conditions, conflict over land rights, loss of biodiversity, and deforestation. Implementation of sustainable agriculture is a key measure to maintain economic performance while minimizing the damage to the environment and creating thriving farming communities.

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Our [Cane Sugar Code](#) defines the specific requirements for producing sustainable cane sugar, based on the definitions for sustainable sugarcane and derived products as set out by Bonsucro. We audit our cane sugar suppliers against the Corbion Cane Sugar Code in high risk regions. Our [Cane Sugar policy](#) has the requirements of our audit program.

For palm, our approach is aligned with the responsible sourcing principles of no deforestation, no peatland, and no exploitation (NDPE). NDPE principles are based on the Roundtable of Sustainable Palm Oil's (RSPO) Principles and Criteria For the Production of Sustainable Palm Oil (2018). We focus on implementing the supply chain of custody standard of RSPO for our products that contain palm oil and/or palm-oil derived ingredients. Corbion joined RSPO in 2005 and we confirm the implementation of the RSPO Shared Responsibility requirements in our palm related operations. We report our progress by completing the Annual Communication of Progress to RSPO, which is published on the RSPO website.

For soy, which we source in the US, the U.S. Soy Sustainability Assurance Protocol (SSAP) is an aggregate approach audited by third parties that verifies sustainable soy production at a national scale. Over 95% of US soybean producers participate in the U.S. Farm Program. According to the Agri-footprint database, which is based on FAO statistics, no land transformation from forest has occurred in the sourcing areas of Corbion's soy bean oil in the US. US soybean farmers also aim to, by 2030, reduce land use impact by 10%, reduce soil erosion by 25%, reduce energy use by 10%, and reduce total GHG-emissions by 5%, compared to 2020.

Corn and wheat, which we source in the US, have significantly less social and environmental sustainability risks compared to soy, palm, and sugar. For corn and wheat the main areas of improvement are related to land use (biodiversity and soil health), water, greenhouse gas emissions, and farmer livelihoods.

Most soy and corn farmers in the U.S. use genetically modified seeds to improve yields and reduce costs. We are using derivatives from these genetically modified (GMO) crops as raw materials and can provide non-GMO alternatives if so desired.

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Corbion is not directly involved in the growing, harvesting, and processing of these crops. We therefore focus our efforts on our tier-1 suppliers that source directly from farmers, and partner with them to address social and environmental issues at farm level. Our approach focuses on continuous improvement toward the implementation of the relevant sustainability standard for each of these raw materials. Our responsible sourcing commitment also includes reducing greenhouse gas emissions for our raw materials in line with the Paris agreement. Moreover, we strive to source all of our key agricultural materials over 99% verified deforestation free by 2030. For more information on related targets and the implementation of the above policies see Corbion's Annual Report.