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Axfood supports sustainable soy production

Axfood has now bought its first soy certificates. This is one step on the path to using sustainably produced soy. By 2015, 100% of the soy used in the production of Axfood's private label products will be either certified or compensated through the purchase of soy certificates.

In the first step, the soy will not come from certified plantations, but for every tonne of soy, a certain sum will be paid to soybean growers who are currently changing over their production. This is being conducted within the framework of the RTRS (Round Table on Responsible Soy) organization.

Global soy production has grown tenfold in the last 50 years. Unfortunately, in many areas the expansion of soybean farming has come at a cost to the environment. Moreover, large-scale soybean farming often involves the extensive use of pesticides.

The growers who now receive money from Axfood for their changeover are located in Brazil, Argentina and India.

“The goal, of course, is to use only sustainably produced soy, but by taking this first step and supporting growers via RTRS certificates, we are helping first to increase the production of certified soy,” says Kristina Areskog Bjurling, Head of Product Sustainability at Axfood.

Axfood's sustainability programme prescribes that the Group will begin to use certified soy or soy certificates for at least 50% of production of its private label products by 2014 and for 100% by 2015. The payment Axfood has now made towards changing over production entails that the goal for 2014 has now been achieved.

Purchases of soy certificates are a part of Axfood's sustainability work.

For further information on the RTRS system, visit:

<http://www.responsiblesoy.org/?lang=en>

For information on some of the projects that Axfood supports, visit:

India: <http://www.responsiblesoy.org/productores/vrutti/?lang=en>

Brazil: <http://www.responsiblesoy.org/productores/fapcen/?lang=en>

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Axfood AB conducts food retail and wholesale business in Sweden. Retail business is conducted through the wholly owned store chains Willys and Hemköp, comprising 254 stores in all. In addition, Axfood collaborates with a large number of proprietor-run stores that are tied to Axfood through agreements. These include stores within the Hemköp and Willys chains as well as stores run under the Handlar'n and Tempo brands. In all, Axfood collaborates with approximately 820 proprietor-run stores. Wholesaling is conducted through Dagab and Axfood Närlivs. Axfood is listed on Nasdaq OMX Stockholm AB's Large Cap list. Axel Johnson AB is the principal owner, with 50.1% of the shares.