

---

**Nominated for the Public Eye Greenwash Award 2010  
by Rainforest Rescue (Germany):**

## **Round Table on Responsible Soy (RTRS)**

### **In Brief**

*Sustainable soy through expulsions and monopolization? The Round Table on Responsible Soy (RTRS), established in November 2006 by diverse organizations and corporations, today has 90 members. Twenty-one are soy producers, 55 come from the processing industry, 14 are civil society organizations and 20 have only observer status. According to the RTRS, its aim is to “promote the application of responsible standards for soy production, processing and trade.” What results from the round table is rather the legitimization of the industrial production of soy on vast monoculture plots by large landowners, investors and agrochemical companies. What on paper should ensure sustainable production and consumption is systematically exploited. The participating firms and lobbyists manipulate policy and the public with false claims, doctored studies, and threats or expulsions of local residents, affected persons and critics. Agricultural production systems, entire regions, and the feeding of further segments of the population run the risk being monopolized and controlled by a small number of firms.*

### **Brief Profile of the Nominated Institution**

The Round Table on Responsible Soy (RTRS), established in November 2006 by diverse organizations and corporations, today has 90 members:

- 21 are producers (including Grupo Maggi, Grupo Los Grobo)
- 55 come from industry, the financial sector and commerce (including ADM, BP, Bunge, Carrefour, Cargill, Louis Dreyfuss, Monsanto, Shell, Syngenta, Unilever)
- 14 are civil society organizations (including CI, TNC, WWF)
- 20 have only observer status

The self-stated aim of the RTRS is to “promote the application of responsible standards for soy production, processing and trade.” In reality, the RTRS acts to legitimize the agroindustrial production of soy on vast monoculture plots by large landowners, investors and firms, while at the same time posing a grave threat to humans, environment and climate.

## **Criticized Institutional Misconduct**

The RTRS is a classic example of a so-called multi-stakeholder dialog that in practice is dominated and exploited by a few industry and business groups as well as large NGOs like Conservation International (CI), The Nature Conservancy (TNC) and WWF, offered as “green fig leaves.” The misconception about weak certification systems that supposedly guarantee sustainable production is systematically taken advantage of. The participating firms and lobbyists manipulate policy and public with false claims, doctored studies and expulsions. Entire agricultural production systems, regions and the feeding of further segments of the population run the risk of being completely monopolized and controlled by a few firms. Through the RTRS, legitimate complaints by affected parties concerning violation of their rights are denied and delegitimized. The consequences are: destruction of natural ecosystems and valuable farmlands and grasslands; loss of biodiversity; expulsion of, and land seizure from, small farmers and indigenous peoples; threats to food production and food sovereignty; squandering of valuable water resources for irrigation and other uses; excessive use of pesticides and other chemical products; contamination of waters through chemical fertilizers and agrochemicals; poisoning of workers and especially local populations via agrochemicals; depletion and contamination of soil; and acceleration of climate change through emissions release due to cleared vegetation. In short, the spread of the agroindustrial production model at the expense of humans and the environment.

## **Demands**

The objective must be the dismantling and rehabilitation of areas planted with soy, as well as the return of plots to the local populations that were driven out. Further steps include the disbandment of the RTRS; the abolition of the agroindustrial soy production model; the return to (small) farmer, traditional and ecological agricultural production methods; and on the consumer side, the change of eating habits towards ecological and socially-responsible products.

## **Further Information**

<http://www.lasojamata.org>

<http://www.grr.org.ar>

<http://www.toxicsoy.org>

<https://nacla.org/soyparaguay>

<http://archive.corporateeurope.org/docs/soygreenwash.pdf>

<http://www.globalforestcoalition.org/news/view/89>

<http://www.foei.org/en/publications/pdfs/forests-and-biodiversity/2008/FoEI-RTRS.pdf>

<http://ngin.tripod.com/foodstatements.htm>

<http://www.seedsofdeception.com/Public/Home/index.cfm>

<http://www.gmwatch.eu/>

<http://www.bangmfood.org/>