

Deforestation Issues

Questions following EU proposals on forest risk commodities

What is a negligible risk? The operator has to undertake a risk assessment and produce a due diligence statement which needs to be accompanied by supporting evidence. If information cannot be sourced from 100% of suppliers how is negligible risk determined.

How easily will information transfer along the chain: With supply chains varying in length and number of intermediary actors, what potential is there for information to be “missing” at the point of ‘placing on the market’?

Timetables for infrastructure development: The legislation places obligations on the EU to establish an information collection system – what is the timetable for its development?

The role of certification: The EU Commission has suggested while certification bodies have a role to play, the current approach is insufficient. Do we see certification as a major step forward and, if so, should we support standardisation and equivalence to a greater extent than might currently be the case?

Questions on the UK secondary legislation under the Environment Act 2021

Coverage: Defra consultants have investigated the expansion of the list of commodities to be covered by the requirements of ‘forest risk commodities’. Should BCA support coffee’s inclusion or fight to have it excluded
Should we be seeking correlation with EU requirements or promote continued voluntary arrangements?

Development: Are there opportunities for pre-competitive work to develop approaches commensurate with a UK regulatory approach, including investigation of potential funding routes.

Questions on the BCA Deforestation Paper

Update: Views needed on whether the paper should be updated following both COP26 and publication of the EU Commission’s proposals.

Possible Expansion: It has been suggested the paper should look at the potential for carbon inseting within supply chains to directly support smallholder livelihoods.

Additionally, whether we should promote the concept of coffee as a natural infrastructure at the farm/forest frontier – developing the role coffee might play within agroforestry systems.

COP26 Deforestation

Agreement reached: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/over-100-leaders-make-landmark-pledge-to-end-deforestation-at-cop26>

Forests, Agriculture & Commodity Trade: <https://ukcop26.org/forests-agriculture-and-commodity-trade-a-roadmap-for-action/>
(see following main action points)

- i. Align our efforts to accelerate innovation in areas most relevant to the objectives of the FACT Dialogue such as sustainable intensification and minimising land expansion, including through One CGIAR, the Agriculture Innovation Mission for Climate (AIM4C), the Global Research Alliance on Agricultural Greenhouse Gases (GRA), global, regional and national research institutes and the coalition in support of the Global Action Agenda on Innovation in Agriculture.
- ii. Strengthen capacity of national institutions to undertake and lead research partnerships, and to disseminate and scale best practices among farmers, including through north-south, south-south, and triangular cooperation.
- iii. Identify and disseminate research, development, and innovation to support the aims of the FACT Dialogue, including innovations to management practices, such as landscape approaches which balance production with protection; and dissemination of knowledge to support trade and market development, smallholder support and traceability and transparency schemes.
- iv. Invest in and scale up agricultural research and innovation in order to promote more climate-resilient low emissions agriculture technologies and practices.