



The EU's biofuels policies and the impact of soy on local & indigenous communities in the Brazilian Cerrado & Amazon

Hosted by MEP Martin Häusling and MEP María Soraya Rodríguez Ramos, together with Transport & Environment and the Rainforest Foundation Norway



AGENDA

- Introduction by MEP **Martin Häusling**
- **André Campos** from Repórter Brazil on soy farming in Brazil
- **Valéria Pereira Santos** from the Pastoral Land Commission on impacts of soy farming on local communities in the Brazilian Cerrado
- **Jabson Nagelo da Silva**, from the indigenous Serra da Maça community on how soy farming impacts the land of his people
- **Prof. Larissa Bombardi** from University of São Paulo on the impact of pesticides on local communities
- **Laura Buffet** from Transport & Environment on the state of biofuels related political process in the EU
- **Q&A**
- Conclusions by **MEP Rodriguez Ramos**

André Campos

Reporter Brasil





SOYBEAN AREA IN BRAZIL

2000 – 14 million hectares

2020 – 37 million hectares

EU IMPORTS OF BRAZILIAN SOY (2020)

Main importer of soy meal

2nd largest importer of soybeans



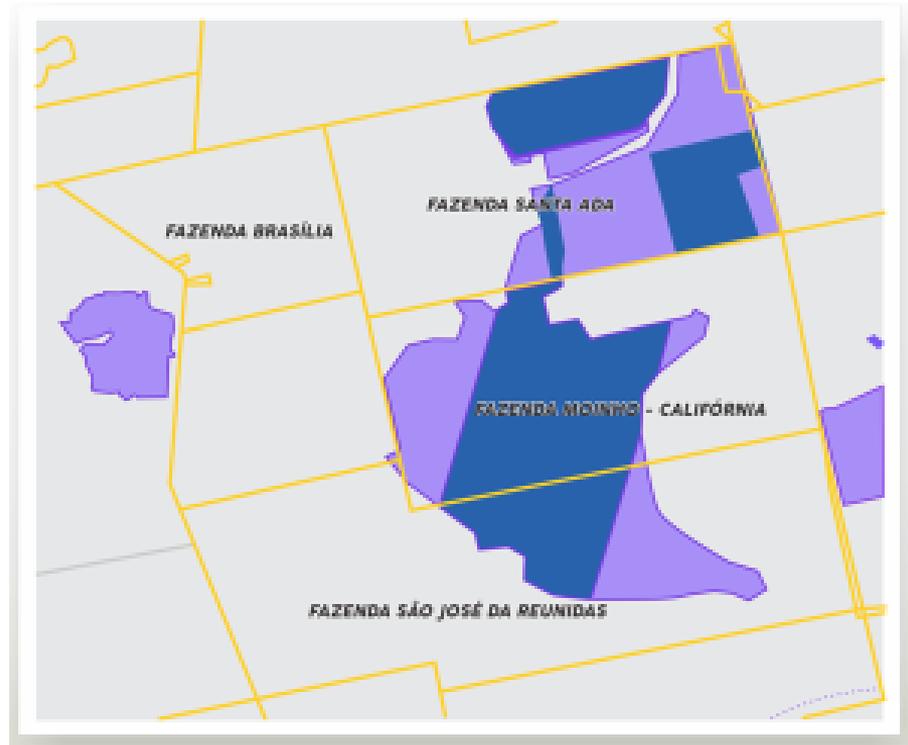
DEFORESTATION DRIVEN BY SOY EXPANSION

- **Direct land conversion, especially in the Cerrado**
- **Indirect deforestation (ILUC), especially linked do cattle expansion**



WE DON'T HAVE TOOLS TO SEPARATE "CLEAN" SOY FROM "DIRTY" SOY, BECAUSE:

- **Indirect Land Use Change (ILUC)**
- **Lack of traceability (especially for indirect suppliers)**
- **Fraud / soy laundering**



Feed supplier to UK farm animals still linked to Amazon deforestation

Cargill, which had pledged to clean up its supply chain, sells feed for many of the billion chickens killed annually in UK



An investigation uncovered Cargill's links with the Brazilian supplier farm Fazenda Conquista. Photograph: Greenpeace Unearthed/Pedro Ladeira

Food giants accused of links to illegal Amazon deforestation

Cargill, Bunge and Cofco sourced beans from companies allegedly supplied by a farmer fined for destroying swathes of rainforest

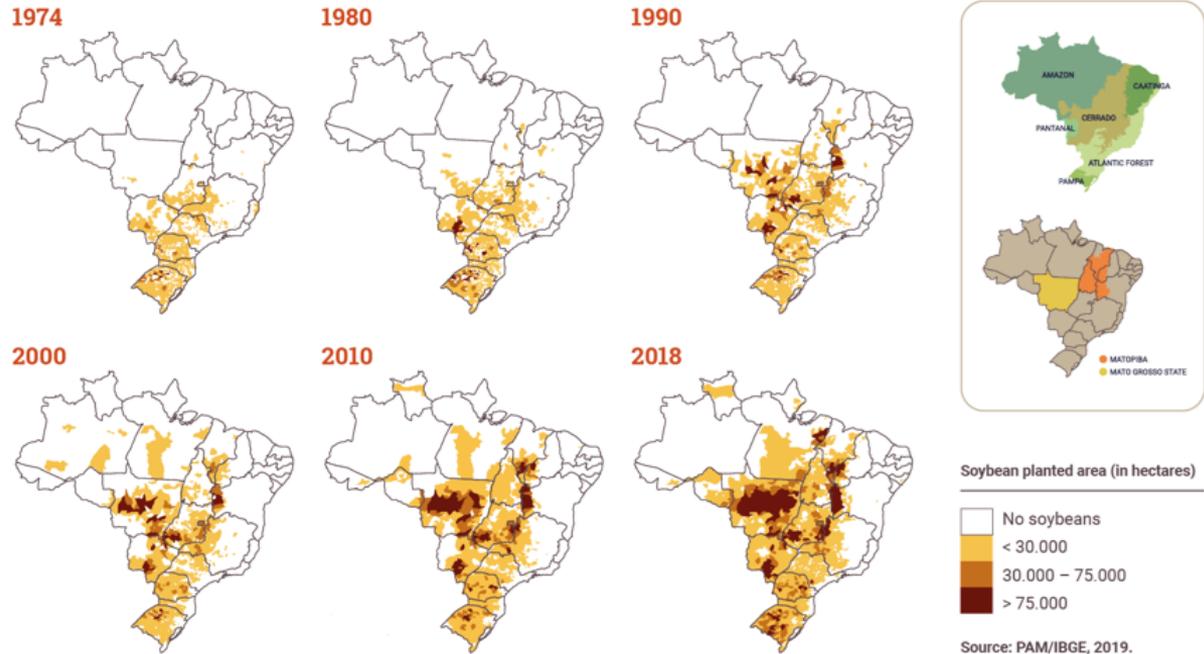


Pastoral Land Commission (CPT), Brazils

SEM CERRADO
ÁGUA
VIDA

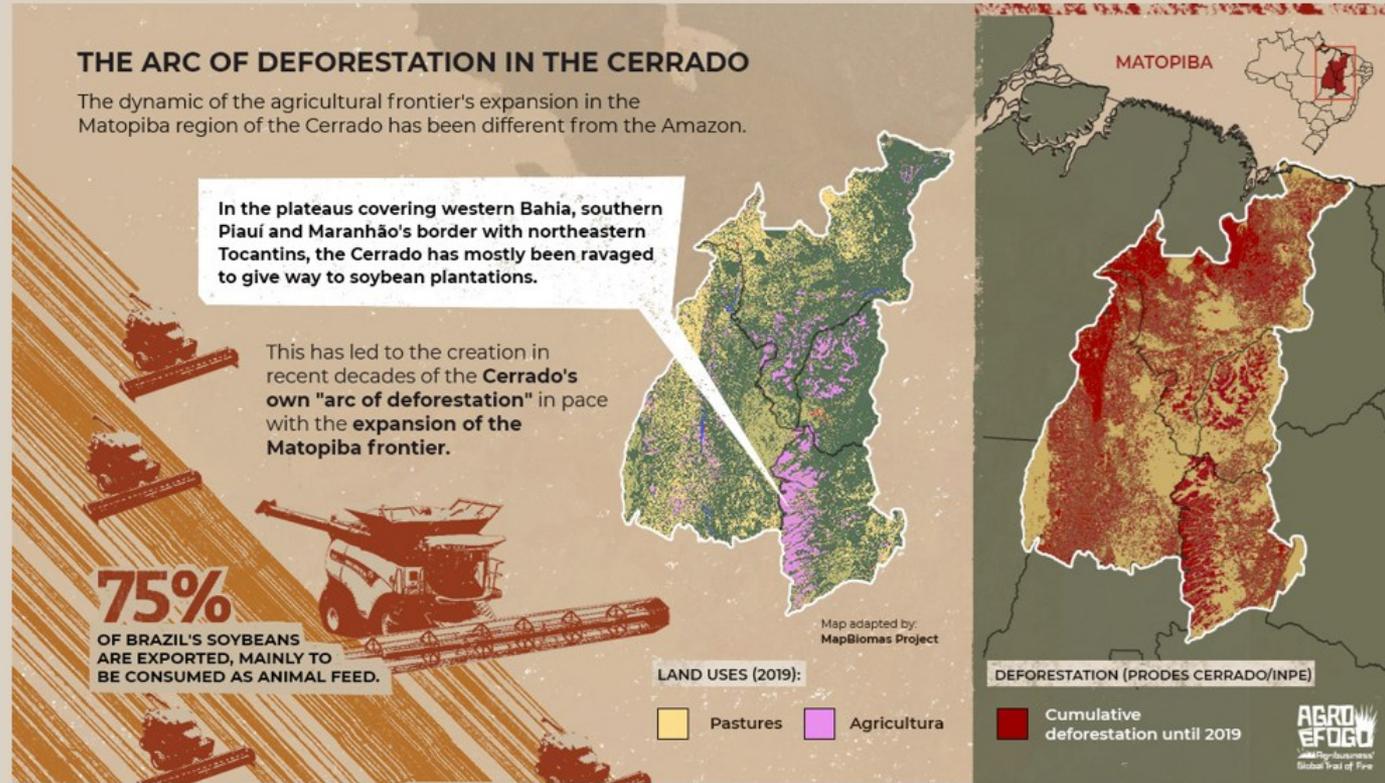


Cerrado Sacrifice Zone for Soy Expansion



Technical information
Coordinator: Diana Aguiar
Cartographer: Karoline Santoro
Designer: Ana Luisa Dibiasi

MATOPIBA, the new Brazilian agricultural frontier



Cerrado

The second largest ecological region in South America and the most biodiverse savanna, housing around 5% of the planet's biodiversity, the Cerrado occupies 22% of the Brazilian territory in a continuous area and is the birthplace of waters and of many peoples and cultures.



Cerrado “cradle of waters”

In the tablelands and plateaus, the deep roots of the typical Cerrado vegetation promote the infiltration of rainwater, constituting the most important water recharge area in the country, supplying even the largest hydrographic basins in the Amazon (the Parnaíba, the Itapecuru, the Tocantins, the Araguaia, the Tapajós, the Xingu, in addition to several tributaries of the Madeira River). This water power has earned it the nickname “cradle of Brazilian waters” and “Brazil’s water tank”. Under the Cerrado are the two main aquifers of the country - the Guarani and the Urucuia-BambuÍ.



The Cerrado's peoples are the true guardians and multipliers of this wealth, as diverse as the Cerrado itself and whose lives are intertwined in the trees and grasses, animals, plateaus, paths, valleys and waters of the region.

There are more than 215 indigenous lands of 83 different ethnic groups (such as the Xerentes, Apinajé, Xavante, Guaraní Kaiowá and Terena).



More than 600 quilombola territories (such as Kalungas, Jalapoeiro and hundreds of others throughout the Cerrado sertões)



Traditional communities

They are the babassu coconut breakers, rooters, geraizeiras, fundo e fecho de pasto, evergreen flower pickers, healers, retreaters, artisanal fishermen, vazanteiras and pantaneiras. They are also the land reform settlers and other peasant-based populations.



Violence against traditional Cerrado populations

Deforestation is part of the cycle that involves land grabbing - deforestation - pesticides - violations of human and territorial rights.

The expansion/invasion of agribusiness on traditional territories resulted, between 2011 and 2020, in the occurrence of 4,785 conflicts involving 1,715 communities of traditional populations.

The average is 13 conflicts per day involving about five locations.



Thomas Bauer



**EU BIOFUEL
POLICY
CONTRIBUTES TO
HUMAN RIGHTS
VIOLATIONS**

Jabson Nagelo da Silva

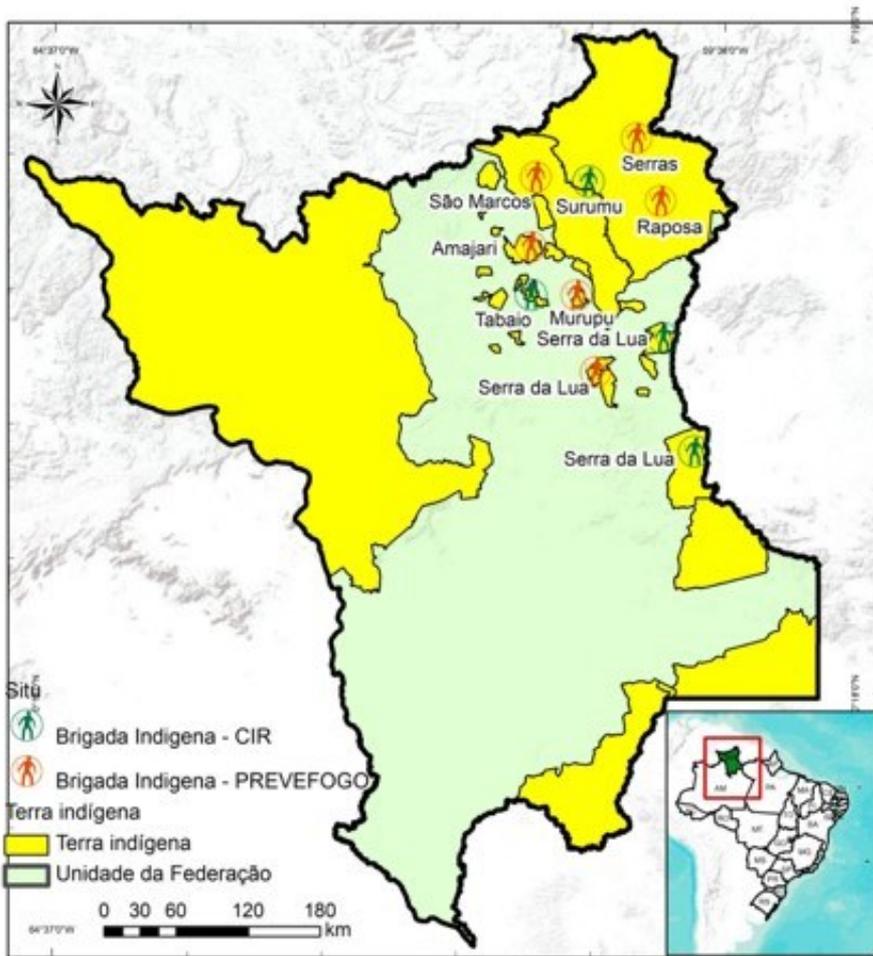
Macuxi Community, Roráima, Brazil





TERRAS INDÍGENAS DE RORAIMA

Distribuição geográfica das bases das Brigadas Indígenas







Prof. Larissa Bombardi

University of São Paulo, Brazil

(see separate presentation)



Laura Buffet

Transport & Environment



EU ends support to 'high ILUC risk' biofuels = palm oil

Renewable Energy Directive (2018)

- **'High ILUC risk' biofuels will be phased out progressively of EU targets by 2030 - not a ban.**
- Definition: 'significant expansion (...) into land with high carbon stock'
- A delegated regulation specifies which biofuels fall in that category.
- EU countries can adopt more ambitious measures.

Delegated regulation on 'high ILUC risk' biofuels (2019)

- **'Significant expansion' - 10% or more of the expansion happened on high-carbon stock (HCS) > peatlands & forests.**
- Report associates 45% of palm oil expansion with high HCS.
- **Only 8% associated for soy.**
- Exceptions to the phase-out.

Palm and soy phase-outs in Europe

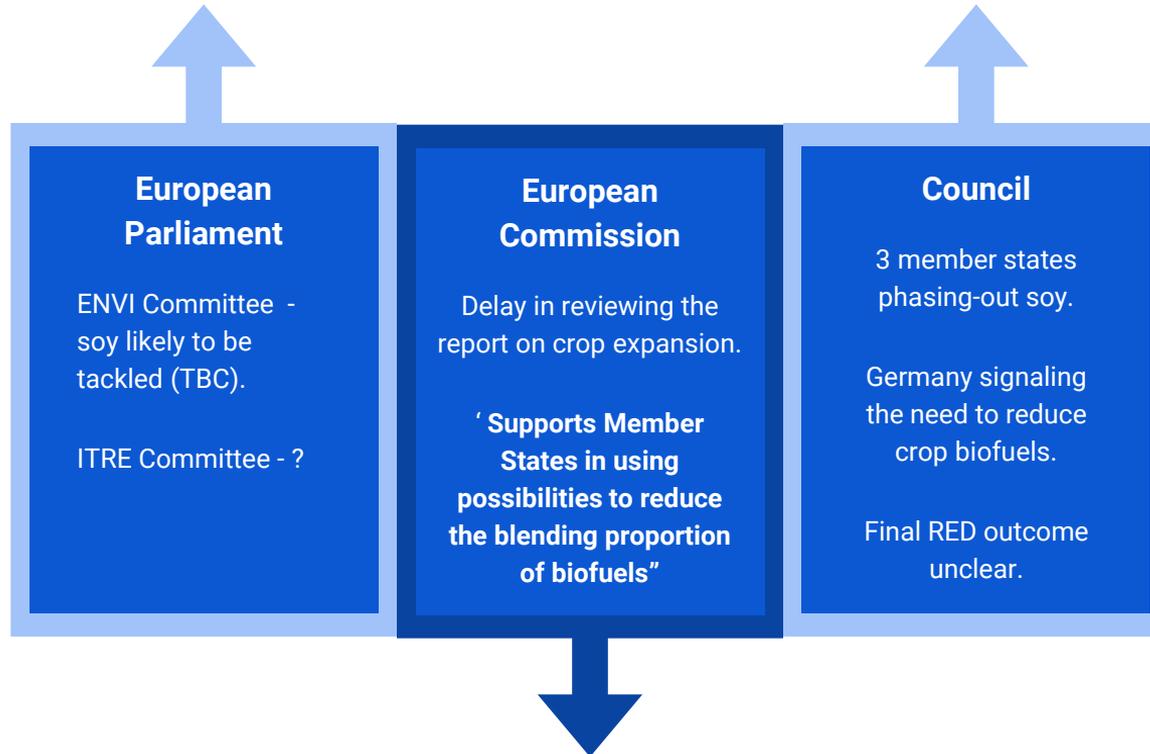


Palm oil will soon be out, why not soy?

- » **Key EU countries are already doing it:** France, Netherlands, Denmark.
- » **Draft regulation on imported deforestation** already labels soy as a commodity with high risk of deforestation.
- » **Deadline for the data review by the Commission was June 2021.**

- The EU Parliament and EU Council should ask for soy to be phased out asap.
- The Commission should review the DA on high-ILUC risk and include soy.

State of play



T&E recommendations

- Palm and soy based biofuels should be phased out immediately, not in 2030.
- The blending of crop biofuels should be suspended in the current context of a food crisis.
- Support is needed for cleaner alternatives: renewable electricity and renewable hydrogen/efuels in aviation and shipping.



Questions & answers

