



The soy story

Hobbit
food for freedom

De Hobbit uses nothing but biologically certified - i.e. non-genetically modified - soybeans in its tempeh and tofu. We source our raw ingredients from two regions of the world - the state of Parana, in southern Brazil, and the Rhineland Palatinate in Germany.

1. BRAZIL

COOPERATION ECO-SOCIAL FAIR TRADE



Until the Nineties it was the standard practice to source soybeans from countries in the sub tropics, where they thrive. The story of the Brazilian soybean is a little complicated. Whilst it is a valuable crop from the agricultural point of view, it does contribute to rainforest destruction and concentrate land in the hands of a few. We tackle the issue with care and concern. Firstly, from an ecological viewpoint: as our soybeans are used for vegetarian food, we occupy only 5% of the land that would otherwise be required to produce animal feed. In other words, we don't have to kill off the rainforest to produce our soybeans. And secondly, we have the biological, eco-social nature of the farming practices. Our beans are grown in symbiosis with nature, by a cooperative in which the farmers have hold of the reins.

In 1994 a group of small, family growers in southern Brazil (Parana) made a brave decision. They formed a cooperative, which they called Biorganica. The aim was to join forces as a way of investing in the equipment they needed; to create the structure and commercial standing they required; and to operate independently of the large soya processors and landowners. They are strongly rooted in the "movimiento sin terra" (Landless Workers' Movement), an association of farmers who lost their lands as a result of Brazil's harsh economic and social realities. Thanks to their cooperative, these farmers are now in a position to build a better future. To support the initiative, we got in touch with the farmers. Where possible, we helped them develop a structure of their own. As the monitoring of soya bean quality is a joint effort, we learn from each other how the very best quality can be cultivated, in the most advantageous biotope for man and environment. More on this cooperative at www.biorganica.br.com. There are now more than 120 affiliated farmers. Other crops are cultivated besides soybeans, such as tapioca, wheat and so on. The products are distributed in Brazil as well as Europe. In addition to the biological aspect, the products bear the Fairtrade and Eco-social logos. For this privilege we pay the farmers over and above the 'market price'. The additional income is used for schooling and healthcare. This year was Biorganica's tenth anniversary and De Hobbit was honoured to be there to join the celebrations. It gave us another opportunity to talk to these fine people, who are facing the future with great strength and belief. Indeed, this is in everyone's best interests, because these farmers are safeguarding the health of the Brazilian rainforest. Thanks to their courage, and their biological methods, they are cultivating their crops with no harm to the rainforest.

And, obviously, it makes us feel good that we are able to play a part in it. By eating a vegetarian diet we can reduce our ecological footprint by a factor of 10. Our biological raw produce helps save the rainforest, the mechanism by which the planet breathes, and our social commitment offers the farmers a better future.



**LET'S ENJOY THIS
FREEDOM OF CHOICE
AND CHOOSE FOR A
BETTER WORLD.**

2. GERMANY

PERSONAL PARTNERSHIP WITH THE FARMER

We source the rest of our soybeans from Germany, where, thanks to the microclimate, it is now possible to grow soybeans. Once again, we are building direct and personal relations with the farmers, and this we do through the Bioland cooperative.

We also aim to process European grown soybeans and believe that this can be done in symbiosis with the Brazilian growers. Thanks to the microclimate in the state of Rhineland Palatinate and the farmers' belief that biological farming should be more prevalent, we are now in a position to source soybeans from this beautiful region.

Below, a list of the German farmers who satisfy our quality standards:

Bernd Bornheimer-Schwalbach
Wallertheimer Straße 5, 55599 Gau-Bickelheim; Bioland DE-ÖKO-006

Karlfried Eich
Kirchgasse 1, 67259 Kleinniedesheim; DE-ÖKO-006 Bioland

Ortwin Gallé
Crayenbühlstraße 10, 67295 Bolanden; DE-ÖKO-006 Bioland

Uli Goldschmidt
Enzinger Straße 27; 67551 Worms-Pfeddersheim; DE-ÖKO-039 Bioland

Armin Meitzler
Niederstraße 34, 55288 Spiesheim; DE-ÖKO-006 Bioland

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