



Soy and deforestation

action: Instagram page

Most people associate soy with tofu and soy milk. However, only a small portion of soy is consumed directly by humans. In fact, most of the world's soy crop ends up in feed for poultry, pork, cattle and even farmed fish. And unfortunately, the expansion of soy to feed the world's growing demand for meat often contributes to deforestation and the loss of other valuable ecosystems in Latin America and elsewhere (source wwf panda.org)

What impact does the destruction of such ecosystems used to plant soy have upon our planet?

Can you be instrumental in educating your fellow students about the impact that soy has on the environment? Can you perhaps make the connection between the Amazon and chicken nuggets (for example)?

GLOBAL CHALLENGE

What is soy?

Soy is a legume that originates in East Asia. Soya beans, which are grown by the soy plant, are edible and can be used to make a wide variety of things, like soy milk, miso and many meat alternatives (like tofu). Soy oil is very common - according to the WWF, 27% of vegetable oil production worldwide is related to soy. Soy is high in protein and has been proven to have health benefits, although studies on these benefits can be quite conflicting. Most importantly, soy is used as animal feed, particularly for chickens, pigs and cows, so when we eat meat or drink milk, we consume it indirectly.

Soy production can be linked directly to climate change and deforestation. The use of soy for biodiesel and animal feed is increasing in response to rising global demand. According to the WWF, since the 1950s, global soybean production has increased x 15! Huge expanses of rainforests have been and continue to be cut down just to meet our requirements, notably the Amazon rainforest. By not taking action, we are not only contributing to deforestation and climate change, but to the non-sustainable ways the soy is grown, which consequently also add to the problem

LOCAL ACTION

One of our actions for our 9Innovate project was to raise awareness about soy and deforestation. Since we can't do much outside of our homes, we thought it was a good idea to create an instagram page to help raise awareness. So far we have four posts and 72 followers. The page was created a few weeks ago.

Our posts are meant to educate people about soy and deforestation, and what they can do to help. Our first post was defining soy and how it is related to deforestation. We also made it clear that people can DM us with facts about soy that we will post.

Our second post was about how we indirectly consume soy by eating meat. It was quite simple, with the caption reading that soy and meat are related, so eating meat results in deforestation.

Our third and most-liked post was a thread that showed people what they can do. The post detailed all the simple things you as an individual can do to stop deforestation and combat climate change. For example, educating friends and family about soy, or eating less meat.

Our fourth post was sent to us in our dms, it was a fact about agriculture. It says that 55% of the world's crops are eaten by us, but over a third are for livestock. This showed that many crops are grown for animals, even if it wasn't directly about soy.

EXPERT CONSULTED



Scott Poynton,
Founder of The Forest Trust,
Author of 'Beyond
Certification'.

*Soy and Sustainability:
"We can create real,
transformational change in
the way we interact with nature,
It's just about doing the right
things!"*

THE TEAM



Cameron
Zuger



Claudia
Olague



Meera Shroff
Feldman



Helena
Wetherall



Arthur Saltiel



Patricia
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