In 2021, the top 5 European producing countries of soybeans comprised France, Germany, Spain, Romania, and Portugal, with France being the leading producer. Yields in Europe, including organic yields, are promising, mainly in Ukraine, and Uruguay. Soy production in Europe, Asia, and Africa (except South Africa) is mostly non-GM.

Europe is the leading non-GM soy production after China and the United States, with the EU27 (excluding UK) representing 9% of global soy imports. In the EU, 12% of soybean flour and meal, 10% of soybean oil, and 3% of soybean meal are imported. The EU also imports protein concentrates (HS 21061020) and soybean isolate (HS 35040910) for animal/human consumption, between non-GM/GM or between soy trade data, no difference is made.

Soy expansion is a major direct driver of forest loss and conversion in several key global ecosystems, particularly in Brazil’s Amazon and in several biodiversity-rich savannas. Estimates point from 1991 to 2020, 15% of surface water in Brazil was lost from deforestation-risk soy production in Latin America.

The EU also imports protein concentrates (HS 21061020) and soybean isolate (HS 35040910) for animal/human consumption, between non-GM/GM or between soy trade data, no difference is made.

While Bt soybeans are particularly high in gluten tolerance, conventional soy production in Brazil is a significant source of gluten contamination in the global food chain. The EU is the largest importer of US-origin Bt soybeans, which has a high level of gluten content.

Soy expansion is a major direct driver of forest loss and conversion in several key global ecosystems, particularly in Brazil’s Amazon and in several biodiversity-rich savannas. Estimates point from 1991 to 2020, 15% of surface water in Brazil was lost from deforestation-risk soy production in Latin America.