



Basel, 01 December 2015

Press release

## **“Bud” feed to be imported only from Europe as of 2019**

**The organic feed sector led by Bio Suisse will only accept regionally sourced “Bud” feed. The appropriate regulation to gradually phase out feed imports from overseas goes into effect at the start of 2017. By 2019, all imported “Bud” feed will be grown in Europe.**

Producers, compound feed manufacturers, importers and retailers have reached a “European ‘Bud’ feed” agreement. The aim is to more rigorously implement the Bio Suisse import policy, which stipulates that priority should be given to the importation of “Bud” products from neighbouring countries.

The new rule will mainly affect soybean imports. In recent years, imports of this important source of protein have led to an increasing dependence on China. In 2014, 70% of soybean imports came from there. Starting in 2017, at least 40% of soybean imports must come from Europe, increasing to a minimum of 70% in 2018. By 2019, all imported “Bud” feed must be derived from Europe. The new inter-trade agreement replaces an existing regulation on the reduction of soybean imports from China.

At present, the demand for soybeans in Switzerland outstrips the available supply of “Bud” soybeans grown in Europe. European production should therefore be increased. To this end, the Research Institute of Organic Agriculture (FiBL) is encouraging soybean cultivation in countries in Eastern Europe.

The new agreement reflects the concerns of consumers who have increasingly questioned the trustworthiness of organic feed from overseas.

### **Press contact:**

Lukas Inderfurth, Head Media Relations at Bio Suisse, +41 (0)61 204 66 25, [lukas.inderfurth@bio-suisse.ch](mailto:lukas.inderfurth@bio-suisse.ch)

Bio Suisse is the leading organic organization in Switzerland and is the holder of the registered trademark “Bud”. Founded in 1981, the umbrella organization represents the interests of 6,000 “Bud” farming operations and nurseries. In addition, over 840 processing and trade operations hold a licence contract with Bio Suisse. The “Bud” logo stands for sustainability because it offers today’s consumers quality food without compromising future generations. Its purpose is to bring the needs of humans, animals and nature into balance. To maintain this balance over the long term, the entire value chain is inspected annually by independent bodies. [www.bio-suisse.ch](http://www.bio-suisse.ch)