



## **Business name**

**Case name: “Starting from the ‘bottles’ until the ISO: How TEEB helper SOESP to go greener”**

## **Business Context**

SOESP buys tropical forage seeds from production fields and coats them with a mix of products that improves the quality and sells the seeds to more than 20 countries. SOESP has been committed to providing farmers in Brazil and around the world with pasture seeds. The company has its factory and its office.

## **Assessment**

### **WHY? What was the objective of the assessment?**

The wider aim of the assessment is to measure the impacts of the whole seed production chain, whether caused by the office or by the factory.

However, the team who led the assessment recognized they had more influence over the decisions in the office, so the pilot focused on this business unit. The ambition of SOESP interdisciplinary sustainability group was to raise awareness and change practices of employees showing their impact on nature.

The anticipated benefits were to have an improved waste management system, reduce waste and have a better discard in daily routine.

The application of this assessment implies comparing two scenarios regarding solid waste and disposal: 1) the first scenario is the baseline business in 2020 2) the second scenario is an improved waste management system.

Next, the results are also used to communicate results internally and externally.

### **WHAT? What was the scope of the assessment?**

In the production process, improper solid waste management (collection, transfer, treatment, recycling, and disposal) is associated with a range of risks, such as the proliferation of diseases, degradation, climate change and negative impact on the well-being of affected people.

To address this, the management of waste materials in the office has been revised. This includes:

- Printed paper being reused, shredded and used as box filling.
- Elimination of plastic cup
- Correct disposal of plastic bottles, cans, caps and other recyclable material
- Replacement of batteries with rechargeable ones.



### HOW? What was measured and valued?

The measurement and valuation happened directly on-site through three years of application:

- SOESP went from 15.000 paper sheets/month (1,5 Eucalyptus tree), to 7.500 paper sheets/month (less than one tree)
- SOESP went from 2500 plastic cups/month to zero, which means 90.000 avoided cups
- SOESP discarded correctly 15 drums of 200 liters each of plastic bottles, caps and other plastic material through a recyclable company
- Batteries will still be changed to recyclable ones. It will represent 35 fewer batteries every month.

Economics gains from savings related to those usage changes have been collected too.

### WHAT NEXT? What were the results of the assessment?

The TEEBAgriFood assessment has been an important step to raise awareness and change employees' culture and mindset internally. The project helped to create a new sustainability department and a new job for certification.

The main benefit of the assessment to improve decision-making lies in the fact that SOESP is in the process of being certified as an ISO 9001 (quality management system) and ISO 14001 (environmental management system) company, which includes both the office and the factory.

Learn more about SOESP [here](#).