Non-Dairy Products
Sustainability Snapshot

Managing the Supply Chain

Palm Oil
Many non-dairy products contain palm oil, palm kernel oil, or ingredients that have been chemically derived from these oils. Palm oil production is one of the leading causes of deforestation, which is a significant contributor to climate change. Palm oil cultivation also impacts climate, land, and water. Improper palm oil production and management may also lead to worker exploitation and threats to worker health and safety. Final product manufacturers should select suppliers that are working to improve sustainability and adopt standard guidelines from the Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO) or other certifications.

Supply Chain Transparency
Addressing many of the environmental and social challenges within an agriculture supply chain requires cooperation among companies at different stages of the supply chain. Manufacturers should determine the locations of farms that produce their ingredient supply and engage in initiatives that improve transparency, communication, and data sharing. Suppliers can work together to address common issues, such as energy use, water availability and quality, chemical use, worker health and safety, and labor rights.

Use of Resources
Climate and Energy
Ingredient processing and final product manufacturing can consume significant amounts of electricity and energy, resulting in greenhouse gas emissions; fertilizers can also emit these gases. Manufacturers and growers can reduce these impacts by measuring and tracking energy use, performing preventative maintenance on equipment, and replacing inefficient equipment. Additionally, growers can minimize impacts by implementing a nutrient management plan, using precision agriculture, which applies only the amount of fertilizer needed, or low-energy irrigation,

Product Description
Non-Dairy Products include beverages and other food products made from nuts, grains, or oilseeds blended with water and other ingredients. Product types include almond milk, coconut milk, soy milk, rice milk, non-dairy yogurt, and non-dairy frozen desserts.
and optimizing the size and efficiency of farm vehicles.

Packaging
Packaging design should be optimized to ensure that packaging performs its essential functions of containment and protection while minimizing use of materials, energy resources, and environmental impacts across the life cycle of the packaged product. Under-packaging and over-packaging can both lead to increased impacts. These impacts may be mitigated by using more energy-efficient manufacturing, creating packaging materials from renewable resources, designing packaging to be recyclable, and encouraging consumer recycling.

Water
Ingredient production can use a significant amount of water and contribute to freshwater depletion, which is problematic in water-stressed regions. Growers can measure and track water use, and use methods such as precision agriculture, which applies only the amount of water needed, or irrigation water management to improve water efficiency.

Workers and Communities

Workers
Workers, especially women and migrants, may face unfair pay, discrimination, and limited freedoms. They may also be exposed to dust, chemicals, or other industrial hazards. Manufacturers should procure materials from suppliers that transparently address worker health and safety and labor rights and perform audits when needed.